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Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2017

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Abbreviations

ADT	Accounting Development Tool
APEC	Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
CEDEAO	Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Area
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMPAL	Competition and Consumer Protection for Latin America (programme)
DMFAS	Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
Empretec	Entrepreneurship Development Programme (UNCTAD)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
GSTP	Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries
ICT	information and communications technology
IIA	international investment agreement
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
SIGADE	Sistema de Gestión y Análisis de la Deuda
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SYDONIA	Système douanier automatisé
TRAINS	Trade Analysis and Information System
TPP	Tran-Pacific Partnership Agreement
TRIPS	Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property
WTO	World Trade Organization

Country/territory/region codes

AFG	Afghanistan	DJI	Djibouti
ALB	Albania	DMI	Dominica
ALG	Algeria	DOM	Dominican Republic
ANG	Angola	DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ANL	Anguilla	ECU	Ecuador
ANT	Antigua and Barbuda	EGY	Egypt
ARG	Argentina	ELS	El Salvador
ARM	Armenia	EQG	Equatorial Guinea
ARU	Aruba	ERI	Eritrea
AZE	Azerbaijan	EST	Estonia
BAH	Bahrain	ETH	Ethiopia
BAL	Baltic States (regional)	EUR	Europe
BAR	Barbados	FIJ	Fiji
BDI	Burundi	GAB	Gabon
BEN	Benin	GAM	Gambia
BER	Bermuda	GBS	Guinea-Bissau
BGD	Bangladesh	GEO	Georgia
BHA	Bahamas	GHA	Ghana
BHU	Bhutan	GIB	Gibraltar
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GLO	Global
BKF	Burkina Faso	GRN	Grenada
BOL	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	GUA	Guatemala
BOT	Botswana	GUI	Guinea
BRA	Brazil	GUY	Guyana
BRU	Brunei Darussalam	HAI	Haiti
BUL	Bulgaria	HON	Honduras
BVI	British Virgin Islands	HUN	Hungary
BYE	Belarus	IND	India
BZE	Belize	INS	Indonesia
CAF	Central African Republic	INT	Interregional
CAM	Central America (regional)	IRA	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
CAR	Caribbean (regional)	IRQ	Iraq
CAY	Cayman Islands	IVC	Côte d'Ivoire
CHD	Chad	JAM	Jamaica
CHI	Chile	JOR	Jordan
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	KAZ	Kazakhstan
		KEN	Kenya
CKI	Cook Islands	KIR	Kiribati
CMB	Cambodia	KOR	Republic of Korea
CMR	Cameroon	KUW	Kuwait
COI	Comoros	KYR	Kyrgyzstan
COL	Colombia	LAO	Lao People's Democratic Republic
COS	Costa Rica	LAT	Latvia
CPR	China	LEB	Lebanon
CRO	Croatia	LIB	Libya
CUB	Cuba	LIR	Liberia
CVI	Cabo Verde	LIT	Lithuania
CYP	Cyprus	LSO	Lesotho
CZE	Czechia		

MAG		Madagascar	**SEN**		Senegal
MAL		Malaysia	**SEY**		Seychelles
MAR		Mauritius	**SIL**		Sierra Leone
MAT		Malta	**SIN**		Singapore
MAU		Mauritania	**SLO**		Slovakia
MCD		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	**SOI**		Solomon Islands
MDV		Maldives	**SOM**		Somalia
MEX		Mexico	**SPM**		Saint Pierre and Miquelon
MLI		Mali	**SRL**		Sri Lanka
MLW		Malawi	**STH**		Saint Helena
MOL		Republic of Moldova	**STK**		Saint Kitts and Nevis
MON		Mongolia	**STL**		Saint Lucia
MOR		Morocco	**STP**		Sao Tome and Principe
MOT		Montserrat	**STV**		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
MOZ		Mozambique	**SUD**		Sudan
MYA		Myanmar	**SUR**		Suriname
NAM		Namibia	**SVN**		Slovenia
NCA		New Caledonia	**SWA**		Eswatini
NEP		Nepal	**SYR**		Syrian Arab Republic
NER		Niger	**TAI**		Taiwan Province of China
NIC		Nicaragua	**TAJ**		Tajikistan
NIR		Nigeria	**TCI**		Turks and Caicos Islands
NIU		Niue	**THA**		Thailand
OMA		Oman	**TIM**		Timor-Leste
PAK		Pakistan	**TOG**		Togo
PAL		Palestinian Authority	**TOK**		Tokelau
PAN		Panama	**TON**		Tonga
PAR		Paraguay	**TRI**		Trinidad and Tobago
PER		Peru	**TUK**		Turkmenistan
PHI		Philippines	**TUN**		Tunisia
PNG		Papua New Guinea	**TUR**		Turkey
POL		Poland	**TUV**		Tuvalu
PRC		Congo	**UAE**		United Arab Emirates
PUE		Puerto Rico	**UGA**		Uganda
QAT		Qatar	**UKR**		Ukraine
RAF		Africa (regional)	**URT**		United Republic of Tanzania
RAS		Asia and the Pacific (regional)	**URU**		Uruguay
RER		Europe (regional)	**UZB**		Uzbekistan
RLA		Latin America and the Caribbean (regional)	**VAN**		Vanuatu
ROM		Romania	**VEN**		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
RUS		Russian Federation	**VIE**		Viet Nam
RWA		Rwanda	**YEM**		Yemen
SAF		South Africa	**YUG**		Yugoslavia
SAM		Samoa	**ZAM**		Zambia
SAU		Saudi Arabia	**ZIM**		Zimbabwe

Introduction

1. This annex provides a description of the main technical cooperation projects and other projects undertaken by UNCTAD in 2017. It is presented in accordance with the four themes specified in the UNCTAD Toolbox. Under each theme, there are a number of products around which projects are grouped. For projects that are not linked with any of the 28 Toolbox products, they are reported under the category "Other" of the pertinent theme. A table showing the individual projects implemented under each product and under the category "Other" of each theme is provided. The technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which draw on research conducted by UNCTAD and on policy suggestions arising from the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I. Theme A: Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development

2. Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals requires building productive capacity and transforming economies by shifting resources to more productive and sustainable sectors and enhancing their competitiveness. Investment, trade and technology are important channels for achieving economic diversification and structural transformation. Trade and trade-related investment, combined with technology upgrading, could enable countries to improve productivity, develop productive capacities and climb regional and global value chains.

3. UNCTAD technical cooperation helps developing countries attract foreign direct investment (FDI) towards sectors that would lead to economic transformation and sustainable development, better integrate into regional and global value chains, and foster the nexus between trade, productive capacity and employment. It also supports these countries in formulating services-driven development strategy, developing e-commerce and the digital economy, promoting sustainable trade and leveraging science, technology and innovation for productive capacity-building.

4. In this section, 10 products under the theme "Transforming economies, fostering sustainable development" are reported. The reports highlight main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2017 and key results to date. For technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked with any of the existing 10 products under this thematic area, they are reported under A99 Other.

A1 Investment policy reviews

Table A1
Investment policy reviews

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Norway
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity-building in investment for development	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity-building in investment for development	2015–	Netherlands

5. Development context. To fully reap their associated benefits for development, which are not automatic nor evenly spread across countries, FDI inflows should be directed towards activities and projects that lead to transforming a country's economy. To support developing countries in their efforts to diversify their economies, attract higher levels of FDI and promote sustainable development, UNCTAD conducts diagnostic studies – investment policy reviews – of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investment. These reviews, which are country specific, provide action-oriented policy advice and concrete recommendations. To foster their implementation and further build capacity for investment policymaking, UNCTAD then provides support through technical assistance activities to developing countries.

6. Objectives and features. The investment policy review process promotes ownership and learning. The programme is conducted in five consecutive phases:

(a) Ensuring government ownership of the investment policy review process. A review begins at the request of a Government. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

(b) Investment policy review evaluation and advisory report. The diagnostic phase includes desk research and a fact-finding mission by UNCTAD technical staff. Policymakers at the highest level and a wide range of stakeholders are brought into the process, including line ministries and agencies, universities and research institutions. Meetings are also held with representatives of the private sector, non-governmental institutions and the donor community active in the country concerned.

(c) Dialogue on investment policy review recommendations and intergovernmental review. Once the draft report is ready, beneficiary countries agree to go through a review process that includes a national stakeholders workshop to discuss the findings of the draft report and review its recommendations. It is followed by an intergovernmental peer review, which draws upon the experiences of other countries in attracting and benefiting from investment, including benchmarking against international best practices.

(d) Implementation and follow-up technical assistance. The review process is designed with one key purpose: making FDI work for sustainable development. The finalization and publication of the investment policy review is the preamble to the core focus of the programme, namely the delivery of technical assistance to help beneficiary countries meet their development objectives by attracting higher levels and diversified types of FDI inflows, while maximizing their developmental benefits and limiting any potentially negative impact. The implementation phase is carried out through short-term action plans and multi-agency medium-term technical assistance.

(e) Implementation report and additional follow-up actions. About five years after the completion of the review report, UNCTAD conducts an assessment of implementation of recommendations and makes proposals for further and longer-term technical assistance.

7. Outputs. In 2017, the main outputs delivered by the investment policy review and follow-up programme are as follows:

(a) Published the investment policy review for the Gambia and the first regional investment policy review, covering seven economies of South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo);[1]

(b) Organized two intergovernmental presentations for the investment policy reviews of the Gambia and of South-East Europe;

[1] United Nations Administrative Region, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

(c) Published the report on the implementation of the investment policy review recommendations of Mauritius;

(d) Completed the draft investment policy review of Lebanon and launched the preparations for the investment policy review of Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad and for the implementation report of Nigeria.

(e) Carried out technical assistance activities to support the implementation of investment policy review recommendations and to deal more effectively with issues related to investment and promotion strategies, international investment agreements and business facilitation. The countries benefiting from these activities include Belarus, Benin, Kenya, Mauritius and Nigeria.

8. The following activities were implemented in 2017 at the country and subregional levels:

9. Angola. UNCTAD undertook the background research and analysis to draft the investment policy review of Angola. An explanatory mission was organized early 2018 to meet with private and public stakeholders in the country to gather the information required to draft the report.

10. Belarus. UNCTAD provided technical advice on certain issues related to investment policy, including the key implications of an incentives regime for investment, the establishment of special economic zones, as well as selected investor treatment and protection provisions, to a delegation of government officials from Minsk in March 2017.

11. Benin. The implementation report of the investment policy review of Benin was launched at a national workshop in Cotonou in 2017. The event was an opportunity to discuss and exchange best practices with respect to investment policymaking, promotion and facilitation with public and private sector representatives. The implementation report showed that since undertaking the review in 2005, Benin has carried out a number of the report's recommendations, which had a positive impact on FDI attraction. These include establishing a single window for business registration, reforming taxation and modernizing the port of Cotonou. However, several recommendations were partially implemented, and private sector development and the country's capacity to meet the Sustainable Development Goals still face challenges. Among these, improving public–private dialogue, as well as access to land and commercial justice, remain priorities. In April 2017, UNCTAD also conducted a capacity-building workshop to discuss with government officials the draft investment code of Benin and further elaborate on good practices for investment policymaking.

12. Cabo Verde. UNCTAD launched the preparation of the investment policy review of Cabo Verde. This included a preliminary mission and a national workshop in July 2017 to consult with stakeholders on the key issues to be addressed in the review. Following extensive background research and analysis, the full fact-finding mission to gather the information required to draft the report took place in December 2017. The complete draft report was completed and presented in three locations in April 2018.

13. Chad. UNCTAD undertook the background research and analysis to draft the investment policy review of Chad. A fact-finding mission will be organized in 2018 to meet with private and public stakeholders in the country to gather the relevant information to draft the complete report.

14. Gambia. UNCTAD published the investment policy review of the Gambia in 2017. At the request of the Government, the investment policy review evaluates the legal and regulatory framework for investment and makes concrete recommendations to strengthen investment promotion in priority sectors. The draft report was discussed at a national workshop in Banjul in April 2017. The final version of the report, which reflects the comments gathered at that event, was presented at an intergovernmental meeting in November 2017 in Geneva. The Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, endorsed the investment policy review recommendations and recognized their role in assisting the country in achieving its Sustainable Development Goal commitments. The meeting was well attended, and delegates and private sector

representatives discussed the challenges faced by the Gambia featured in the review, in particular, regulatory bottlenecks, institutional weaknesses, skills gaps and infrastructure issues. They also underlined the reforms that have started and stressed the importance of involving all stakeholders, citing notably the recent revival of an institutionalized public–private dialogue mechanism. Development partners (the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the European Union, the International Trade Centre and the African Union) introduced ongoing projects, focusing notably on youth empowerment and job creation.

15. Kenya. UNCTAD continued to work with the Government of Kenya to develop the Kenya Investment Policy, in cooperation with the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation and the United Nations Development Programme Kenya. The Kenya Investment Policy sets out the policy (including legal, regulatory and institutional issues) guiding investment decisions in the country. UNCTAD contributed inputs, comments and support to the process, which included a three-day retreat to provide expert advice and assist in the finalization of the draft policy. It also included consultations during a national stakeholders workshop held in June 2017 in Nairobi, which brought together more than 125 senior representatives from government and business, including UNCTAD and the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, to provide final inputs and comments on the draft policy, which is expected to be submitted to Cabinet and Parliament for adoption in 2018.

16. Lebanon. UNCTAD launched the preparation of the investment policy review of Lebanon, including background research and analysis. A fact-finding mission took place in September 2017 in Beirut to meet with public and private stakeholders to gather the information required to draft the complete report. The full draft report was completed in December 2017.

17. Mauritius. In 2017, UNCTAD published the implementation report of the investment policy review of Mauritius. The fact-finding mission took place in Port Louis in September to gather the information needed to draft the report. The mission was also provided an opportunity to consult with government officials on the preparation of a strategic investment plan for Mauritius. UNCTAD interviews have highlighted some critical areas of stakeholders' concern that the plan will need to address, including the loss of competitiveness in traditional manufacturing sectors and adjustments required in the financial sector.

18. Nigeria. Following a request for the Government of Nigeria, UNCTAD started the preparation of the implementation report of the investment policy review. This included background research and analysis, as well as consultations with government representatives on investment policymaking and particular challenges faced by the country. A fact-finding mission to gather the relevant information to finalize the report was carried out in March 2018.

19. South-East Europe. UNCTAD published its first regional investment policy review in 2017, which focused on seven economies of South East Europe. Following extensive consultations with stakeholders, including the Regional Cooperation Council and the Central European Free Trade Agreement, UNCTAD completed the review which analysed issues related to the following areas: investment laws and FDI entry, protection and treatment; international investment agreements; procedures for starting up a business; fiscal policy, corporate taxation and investment incentives; labour market and skills; competition regulation; and regional investment promotion. A national workshop was held in Podgorica in May 2017. The final review was discussed at an intergovernmental review in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2017, in the context of the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development. The statements by delegates acknowledged the quality of the report and commended its findings and recommendations. The innovative approach adopted by UNCTAD in producing the first regional investment policy review was also appreciated by several delegates. A representative said that "the investment policy review is an anchoring and foundational document to guide the Group's work in the region". Delegates also underlined the usefulness of the review process to boost investment and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They reiterated the importance of the recommendations of UNCTAD in areas such as the harmonization of

laws, infrastructure development, the reduction of administrative barriers and the improvement of institutional coordination.

20. Overall results. On the whole, the investment policy reviews have played a key role in strengthening the investment policies and strategies of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This has enabled them to attract higher levels of FDI and derive larger development gains, while minimizing as much as possible the potential costs, in line with the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, many activities to support the implementation of the investment policy review recommendations have been carried out under the programme. Evidence of impact can be illustrated at three levels: a country's commitment and endorsement of recommendations, implementation of investment policy review recommendations, as well as impact on investment flows and the investment environment.

Commitment at the highest level and endorsement of recommendations

21. The importance and relevance of the investment policy review work is reflected by the involvement of Heads of States or Governments in the process and their commitment to implementing its outcome. In most cases, the reviews were presented to and discussed with Heads of States and cabinet ministers. Development partners also directly expressed their interest, as shown by the following endorsements received throughout 2017:

(a) The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde expressed appreciation for the timely and favourable response of UNCTAD to his request for an investment policy review. He indicated that the review would inform the government plans, which include reforming the public administration to increase efficiency and fostering private sector development (Cabo Verde, July 2017);

(b) The Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of the Gambia stated: "The Gambia's investment policy review and entrepreneurship policy will go a long way to reposition our country" (Geneva, November 2017);

(c) The Ambassador of Austria to the United Nations said: "First, let me congratulate UNCTAD on an excellent report [South-East Europe]. [...] In a globalized world, UNCTAD's Investment Policy Reviews can be a useful tool both for investors and for the respective governments [...]. The Investment Policy Review is interesting and cross-cutting, with practical recommendations". (Geneva, November 2017);

(d) The Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina stated: "This document (investment policy review) [...] should assist us in paving the way towards more FDI. [....] I support the ideas of joint investment promotion initiative for South-East Europe [...]. More cooperation leads to more development and more opportunities" (Geneva, November 2017);

(e) The Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme of the Gambia stated: "UNCTAD's investment policy review analysis will provide critical input to the United Nation's development framework, which is being reviewed to be aligned with the Gambia's new development plan" (Geneva, November 2017);

(f) The Secretary-General of the Regional Cooperation Council stated: "We hope this investment policy review [South-East Europe] can serve as a model for other regions" (Geneva, November 2017);

(g) The Senior Trade Specialist of the World Bank Office in Geneva said: "This [investment policy review of South-East Europe] is a foundational/anchor document. It is a road map for reform of investment policy for the implementation phase – it is a public good. Many parts of the world would benefit from this regional approach" (Geneva, November 2017).

Implementation of investment policy review recommendations

22. Another benchmark of the impact of investment policy reviews is the extent to which Governments find the recommendations useful and have implemented them.

23. To date, UNCTAD has published 15 implementation reports (Benin, Botswana, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia). The reports showed that these countries have been active reformers, with all of them fully, substantially or partially implementing over 80 per cent of the recommendations contained in their investment policy review (they have made efforts to implement 360 of 442 recommendations). In some economies, this figure rises to 96 per cent. Given that almost half of the implementation reports were published more than four years ago, the total number of implemented reforms could be even higher today.

24. A significant number – about 40 per cent – of these recommendations were implemented with the assistance of UNCTAD. Assistance took different forms, including advisory services on policy, legal, regulatory and institutional matters.

Direct impact on investment flows and improvement of the investment environment

25. It is difficult to assess the correlation between the implementation of investment policy review recommendations and an increase in FDI flows, although this is one of the principle objectives of the requesting country. Another objective of the review is to improve the quality of FDI and ensure that it contributes more effectively to sustainable development. In this respect, countries could experience a decline in flows but an improvement in the development impact of FDI and the operations of investors. Nevertheless, all 15 countries for whom an implementation report was completed saw their annual FDI inflows increase by an average 206 per cent in the five years following the review, compared with average annual inflows in the five years before the review.

26. It is difficult to compare the FDI performance of the 15 countries – which range widely in geographic location, income level and political context – that have completed an implementation report, with a similar panel of economies that have not undergone an investment policy review. But within the group of 15 economies, it is possible to discern a weak but positive correlation between the increase in FDI flows and the rate of implementation of investment policy review recommendations: that is, countries that implement more, experienced a greater increase in FDI.

27. Another indicator of the impact of investment policy reviews is a country's commitments to reform as measured by their progress in international business rankings, which assess the operational environment for the private sector.[2] Since 2006, two thirds of the 15 economies with an implementation report were featured as a top ten reformer in the Doing Business rankings. Of these, six economies were featured in multiple years.

28. Finally, another way to attest to the overwhelming expression of interest in investment policy reviews is illustrated by the number of countries that have requested to benefit from the programme, including follow-up technical assistance. Official requests for investment policy reviews are in the pipeline for 27 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua, Oman, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Turkmenistan.

[2] Governance and business-related indices abound from several organizations. Despite the inadequacies and limitations intrinsic in such indices and rankings, their publication means that countries are exposed to global scrutiny to an unprecedented extent. Most countries have internalized the need for quality regulations but what remains problematic, most of the time, is proper implementation. UNCTAD advice has been to prioritize reforms, not seeking a higher ranking but more effective regulations, as well as their implementation. See, for example, UNCTAD, 2011, *Investment Policy Reviews: Shaping Investment Policies around the World* (United Nations publication, New York and Geneva).

A2 Services policy reviews

Table A2
Services policy reviews

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/9BG	General trust fund on services, development and trade	2009–	Multi-donors

29. Development context. The service economy is an important instrument for the expansion of trade, productivity and competitiveness, providing jobs and universal access to essential services. Development of the services sector provides the backbone of an integrated and effective economy. Vibrant infrastructural services such as financial services, telecommunications, transport and energy can boost economic diversification and enhance domestic supply capacity. Diversification into the services sector is conducive to integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small, structurally weak and vulnerable States, into the global services economy, and increasing their participation in services production and trade is an essential contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals which refer, for example, to the developmental potential of tourism services, and infrastructure services and social services, such as health and education services. In order to generate the expected development benefits, services trade liberalization needs to be properly paced and in sequence with the establishment of effective regulatory and institutional frameworks. This poses important challenges to developing countries, including the establishment of national services policies to build up productive capacity in services and the negotiation of services agreements at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. It also entails the strengthening of robust regulatory and institutional frameworks.

30. Objectives. UNCTAD activities in the area of services policy reviews are aimed at strengthening developing countries' capacities to make informed policy choices at the national and regional levels in order to effectively harness the benefits of the services economy and services trade. They are geared towards allowing such countries to design and implement appropriate services and related policies and regulatory frameworks, to negotiate and implement multilateral and regional trade agreements on services, to establish institutional frameworks, to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, to build competitive services supply capacities and to promote the insertion of new jobs and poverty reduction in global value chains. Activities relating to services policy reviews are designed to assist developing countries, with a particular focus on the least developed countries as well as small and vulnerable economies, and in three regions, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

31. Outputs. UNCTAD provided demand-based assistance on services assessments – services policy reviews, including specific country- and sector-focused services assessments that examine policy and regulatory frameworks and the potential impact of trade liberalization. Such assessments provide beneficiary countries with the data and information necessary for making informed policy choices about accelerating national services development and about the liberalization and regulation of service sectors at the national, regional and international levels. Synergies were created with ongoing analytical and intergovernmental work, especially through the second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, which focused on the regulatory and institutional dimension in the development of the services sector, held in Geneva in April 2014.

32. Services policy reviews have served as a toolkit to allow policymakers and regulators to assess the potential of services productive capacities and trade, as well as the robustness of regulations and institutions, in order to identify constraints to services sector development and ascertain practical solutions and a suitable policy mix. To date, reviews have been conducted for Bangladesh, Colombia Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nicaragua, Lesotho,

Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda and Uganda.[3] In 2017, a national services policy review was initiated at the request of Angola, Myanmar and Paraguay. At the request of the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional services policy review was initiated to help support the deepening of regional integration and negotiations in the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

33. Results and impacts. The work of UNCTAD on services policy reviews has helped developing countries better understand this area, and the potential opportunities that it can provide. Through country- and sector-specific assessments and field support, UNCTAD has assisted countries with the development of their services sectors. Services policy reviews for selected countries are carried out to assess and improve their policy and regulatory frameworks and trade policies, along with the impact of trade liberalization on specific sectors and countries and trade policy options that advance national sectoral development objectives. Guidance is provided for multi-stakeholder consultative processes and sharing of experiences and lessons learned to help countries identify best-fit national policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks. Innovative policy options, strategies and best-fit practices in services sector are identified. Services policy reviews have helped reform sector policies and regulation. They have improved access to essential services and generated important data and reference material for multilateral and regional trade negotiations, as well as for national services policy formulation.

34. The contribution of these reviews is acknowledged by beneficiaries and member States. For instance, the Ambassador of Bangladesh stated: "...[Services Policy Review of Bangladesh] will also help in the ongoing process of formulating an integrated national policy on trade in services in order to fine-tune our objectives at the national level and also in regional and international trade negotiation regimes." In addition, the Minister for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of Uganda expressed her appreciation to UNCTAD for undertaking two services policy reviews.

A3 Trade policy framework reviews

Table A3
Trade policy framework reviews

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/2CT	Training in the least developed countries and developing countries in trade policy formulation	2003–	Norway
ROA-2904 (K8)	Capacity-building for the formulation and implementation of Millennium Development Goals-oriented trade policies in developing countries contributing to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the context of multiple and interrelated development challenges	2013–	Development Account

35. Development context. The comprehensive development-centred trade policy is an engine for economic growth that can help promote sustainable development. Effectively done, trade policy can drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including in progressing towards the achievement of Goal 17.11 on increasing the exports of developing countries, Goal 8 (economic growth) and Goal 9 (industry, innovating and infrastructure). Many developing countries, however, have limited capacity to analyse the

[3] National services policy reviews: Kyrgyzstan (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/2), Nepal (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010), Rwanda (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/6), Lesotho (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2012/1/Rev.1), Peru (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/11), Nicaragua (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/13), Paraguay (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2014/2), Bangladesh (phases I and II: UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/2 and UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/3), Uganda (phases I and II: UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2010/1 and UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/12).

relationship between trade, productive capacity and employment, assess policy options and formulate and implement adequate national trade policy frameworks.

36. Objectives. Trade policy framework reviews focus on identifying key sectors for diversification with the potential to bring higher economic value, setting the right trade policies to back up development priorities and establishing a trade policy framework to ensure effective implementation of such strategies. The objectives of such reviews are as follows: to help countries assess, formulate and implement a new-generation of trade policy measures and strategies; strengthen self-sustainable national institutional capacities and to contribute to the (re)formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes according to a country's specific development needs.

37. Output. UNCTAD continued to devote particular attention to strengthening the national capacity of policymakers on trade policy formulation and in assessing and preparing Sustainable Development Goal-oriented trade policy frameworks. UNCTAD support has contributed to enhanced understanding of policymakers and trade negotiators of nine developing countries (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia)[4] on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development, and developmental provisions and flexibilities that are particularly important in creating an enabling environment through the international trading system. These analyses and policy recommendations were reviewed and validated by national stakeholders, and associated advisory and capacity-building support have strengthened stakeholders' understanding and analytical skills. This has supported the formulation, updating and reformulation of trade policies and fostered inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations for inclusive trade policymaking. Several countries have embarked on the implementation of recommended policy measures. Such experiences could be usefully replicated in more countries.

38. In 2017, UNCTAD delivered a number of advisory services and capacity-building support to assist beneficiary countries in assessing and preparing Sustainable-Development-Goal-oriented trade policy framework. For example, an advisory mission and workshop on trade policy frameworks was held for Algerian trade officials in Algiers on 23–26 July 2017. A publication entitled "*Trade Policy Frameworks for Developing Countries: A Manual of Best Practices*" (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2017/3) describing lessons learned from UNCTAD support could serve as a useful guide for interested member States in formulating or updating their trade policies.

39. Results and impacts. UNCTAD support has been instrumental in several respects. It has facilitated consideration, and/or adoption, by Governments, of best-fit trade policy options and strategies that can help strengthen productive capacities and increase participation in international trade in a manner that maximizes the potential of development gains, especially job creation and poverty reduction. UNCTAD assistance has also enhanced understanding and deepened technical knowledge of developing-country policymakers, trade negotiators, parliamentarians and others stakeholders of ongoing multilateral and regional trade negotiations and agreements, strengthened technical preparedness for negotiations and supported a proactive approach towards ensuring that negotiations and agreements are coherent and emphasize development aspects framework that promote policy coherence to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

40. Nine comprehensive trade policy frameworks were prepared and steps taken in at least four countries to reflect them in the review, formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes. For instance, Botswana Jamaica, Namibia and Zambia identified concrete measures to implement their respective trade policy frameworks, including through the development of implementation road map and matrices. This support was appreciated by the beneficiaries. United Nations Development Account project 1213K

[4] Trade policy frameworks: Angola (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/5), Zambia (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2015/4), Tunisia (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2014/1), Jamaica (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2013/9), Botswana (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2016/1), Namibia (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2016/2) and Panama (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2016/3).

"Capacity-building for the formulation and implementation of Millennium Development Goal-oriented trade policies in developing countries contributing to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the context of multiple and interrelated development challenges" that supported the trade policy framework reviews underwent a final project evaluation in 2017. The independent evaluator's report described the project as "highly relevant" and as "a very effective initiative with a reach that extended to more than nine developing countries".

A4 Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

Table A4
Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ROA-2902 (18)	Strengthening national capacities to manage policies and frameworks on science, technology and innovation in Asian countries	2013–	Development Account
RWA/0T/ECD	Science, technology and innovation policy review of Rwanda	2016–	German Agency for International Cooperation

41. Development context. The basic assumption that underpins this work is that innovation, particularly innovation based on knowledge, is a key driver of economic growth, structural transformation and sustainable development. Among the capabilities that developing countries need to generate in order to harness science, technology and innovation for development, sound policymaking frameworks leading to the establishment of effective innovation systems are key. While this is recognized by the Governments of many developing countries, designing and implementing national science, technology and innovation strategies and policies presents considerable challenges for many of them. There is a clear need to support a process of science, technology and innovation policy learning, experimentation and the dissemination of good practices.

42. Objectives and features. The science, technology and innovation policy review programme provides policy advice to countries requesting assistance in building and maintaining a dynamic and responsive science, technology and innovation framework that can foster technological capabilities, create effective innovation systems, facilitate technology acquisition and improve national innovation performance. It aims to ensure that national science, technology and innovation programmes become an instrument for supporting relevant components of the national development agenda, helping local industry compete in a knowledge-based, global economy. The theoretical framework that underpins the programme and its implementation methodology are presented in the publication entitled "*A Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews*".[5]

43. The reviews assess the strengths and weaknesses of a country's innovation system, including the policy framework, capabilities, innovation effort and performance, and generally include an analysis of the technology and innovation challenges and opportunities in specific industries or issue areas (such as information and communications technology (ICT), biotechnology or energy) of high priority for the beneficiary country. Key science, technology and innovation issues that affect the productivity and competitiveness of industries are identified. The reviews include recommendations for action to revamp policy frameworks, including policies, regulations, measures and practices that can improve technological and innovation capacity, increase investment in innovative activity, raise productivity and upgrade

[5] UNCTAD, 2011, A Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews (United Nations publication, New York and Geneva).

competitiveness. The primary beneficiaries of the reviews are the major players in the national innovation system, such as policymakers (from science and technology ministries or similar bodies, trade and industry ministries, and other ministries of key importance to science, technology and innovation), the business community and academic and research institutions.

44. Outputs. The science, technology and innovation policy review of the Islamic Republic of Iran was launched at the twentieth session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development in in Geneva in May 2017. During the launch, comments on the review were presented by the Vice-President for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A workshop was organized in collaboration with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology in January 2017 on building technological capabilities through international collaboration as follow-up to the science, technology and innovation policy review.

45. 2017 saw the national launch of the science, technology and innovation policy review of Rwanda. This review was initiated at the request of the Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda and was conducted with financial assistance of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The review, presented at the twentieth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on 10 May 2017 in Geneva, was launched in Kigali in October 2017 and was well received by a group of 50 stakeholders. Discussions with a key counterpart, the National Commission on Science and Technology, were held to explore follow-up, including participation and reporting at subsequent sessions on the implementation of science, technology and innovation policy recommendations.

46. An initial preparatory mission was held with key stakeholders in Ethiopia in April 2017 on the prospective implementation of a science, technology and innovation policy review of Ethiopia. Several key governmental stakeholders expressed strong interest in such a review, which would support the implementation of the national development strategy and help revise the current national science, technology and innovation policy. Agreement was reached to pursue avenues for donor funding to carry out the review and proceed once funding became available.

47. Results. The science, technology and innovation policy review of the Islamic Republic of Iran is being discussed within policymaking bodies in that country. A working group has been established to facilitate targeted discussions on the review and its findings to determine the follow-up.

48. The science, technology and innovation policy review of Rwanda provides a reference for the revision of the national science, technology and innovation policy, initially conceived in 2006. The draft review contains 10 overall recommendations, 30 recommendations on general science, technology and innovation policy and conditions, and 10 recommendations for four economic sectors (energy, ICT, industry and agriculture). Following on the review, in mid-2017 the UNCTAD secretariat provided a review and comments on a draft science, technology and innovation and research policy of Rwanda. Consultations on modes of developing a five-year implementation plan were also conducted in 2017.

A5 E-commerce and the digital economy

Table A5
E-commerce and the digital economy

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/9AS	ICT policies for development	2009–	Finland, Germany, Republic of Korea
INT/0T/BCY	Building capacity to produce indicators for supporting ICT for development policies and	2013–	Sweden

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	mainstreaming ICT in women's entrepreneurship programmes		
EGY/0T/EBD	ICT policy review: E-commerce strategy (Egypt)	2015–	Master Card
INT/0T/FAQ	e-Trade for all coordination	2016–	Multi-donors
RWA/0T/FAV	ICT policies for development: E-commerce strategy (Rwanda)	2016–	Rwanda
NEP/0T/GAL	Rapid eTrade readiness assessment (Nepal)	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
INT/0T/GAM	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments	2017–	Sweden
INT/0T/GAP	Rapid eTrade readiness assessments	2017–	German Agency for International Cooperation
SAM/0T/GAV	Rapid eTrade readiness assessment (Samoa)	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
VAN/0T/GAX	Rapid eTrade readiness assessment (Vanuatu)	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
LRD/0T/GAY	Rapid eTrade readiness assessment	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services
SOI/0T/GAZ	Rapid eTrade readiness assessment (Solomon Islands)	2017–	United Nations Office for Project Services

49. Development context. E-commerce and, more generally, the rise of the digital economy, are rapidly transforming the way in which enterprises are interacting with each other, consumers and Governments. Digitalization is creating new opportunities for technological leaps, productivity gains across the economy, the rise of new sectors and more trade. At the same time, this transformation is raising new challenges and costs for countries. Some of the greatest dynamism in e-commerce and information and communications technologies (ICTs) can be found in developing countries, but the potential is far from fully realized.

50. Making ICTs work for development means adapting to the opportunities and the challenges that go along with their use. Conducting domestic and international trade online has to be simplified, and there is a need for legal protection for users and providers to ensure that citizens, consumers and enterprises can trust online transactions. Developing countries need to establish legal, institutional and policy frameworks, as well as effective national strategies, to leverage the dynamism of e-commerce. Developing countries, including the least developed countries, require better access to reliable statistics on the digital economy. It is important for policymakers to receive evidence-based guidance on the design of sound policies and to learn from best practices in securing development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. Seizing development gains from this evolving landscape requires a holistic, cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach.

51. The Nairobi Maafikiano led to the establishment of the annual Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy. UNCTAD was given a stronger mandate to position itself as an important enabler and a centre of excellence for leveraging e-commerce and the digital economy for sustainable development. With the launch of the UNCTAD-led eTrade for all initiative, the annual, multi-stakeholder e-commerce Week, and the publication of the *Information Economy Report*, UNCTAD has acquired a leadership role in e-commerce and the digital economy for development through its three pillars of work: research and analysis, consensus-building, and technical cooperation.

52. Objectives and features. The E-commerce and Digital Economy Programme ultimately aims to improve the ability of people in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to reap inclusive and sustainable development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy. This should be achieved through improved decision-making and policy formulation of policymakers within member States and development partners on e-commerce and digital economy for development, in a gender-sensitive manner and improved efficiency of member States, development partners, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to address issues and provide assistance on e-commerce and the digital economy for development.

53. Outputs. Extrabudgetary funding contributed to the production and dissemination in 2017 of the *Information Economy Report 2017: Digitalization, Trade and Development*, as well as to an updated version of the *UNCTAD B2C [Business-to-consumer] e-commerce Index*. Both reports were instrumental in supporting UNCTAD technical assistance and discussions at the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in October 2017.

54. The third edition of the UNCTAD E-commerce Week with the theme "Towards inclusive e-commerce" featured more than 30 sessions contributing to the global dialogue on the need to make the development of e-commerce inclusive. This third edition of the event saw the participation of over 1,000 representatives of Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society from 99 countries. The entire week was successfully implemented, thanks to the collaboration of UNCTAD and 30 partners.

55. UNCTAD completed and launched the *ICT Policy Review: National E-commerce Strategy for Egypt* in Cairo in December 2017 in the presence of the president of the country. It became the first national e-commerce strategy developed by UNCTAD for a member State. It sets out a vision and goals, substrategies, megaprojects and strategic recommendations to tackle challenges and bottlenecks identified through a diagnosis of the ICT Policy Review that integrated eight policy areas: ICT infrastructure and services, logistics and trade facilitation, the legal and regulatory environment, electronic payments, electronic platforms, skills development and building talent, awareness-raising and
e-procurement. The strategy benefited from partnership with the World Bank on e-payments, as well as from United Nations inter-agency and private sector cooperation in several areas.

56. Replying to requests from Oman and Rwanda, UNCTAD started the process to draft national e-commerce strategies in both countries. In Rwanda, a fact-finding mission was conducted in February 2017 in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, and a work plan was drafted. Funding to carry out the work plan was secured in the second half of 2017, and the strategy will be finalized in 2018. In Oman, a memorandum of understanding was signed at the end of 2017 between UNCTAD and the Oman Logistics Centre, and desk research has been started to assess the country's e-commerce challenges and barriers, as well as potential and opportunities.

57. UNCTAD provided assistance to launch pilot enterprise surveys on exports of digitally delivered (ICT-enabled) services, in Costa Rica, India and Thailand. The surveys make use of a methodology developed by UNCTAD and are implemented by national statistical agencies and central banks in cooperation with the private sector. A first set of preliminary results were presented at an UNCTAD expert meeting on 28 and 29 November 2017 in Geneva. Lessons learned from the first round of implementation are taken into account for revising the model survey questionnaire and methodological guidelines. Other countries expressed an interest in conducting similar surveys.

58. UNCTAD co-delivered a training course on digital commerce in cooperation with the Diplo Foundation, the International Trade Centre, the Consumer Unity and Trust Society and the Geneva Internet Platform in Geneva. This course assists permanent missions and international organizations in Geneva to increase their knowledge and capacity to engage in multilateral digital commerce-related negotiations and discussions.

It provides an interdisciplinary coverage of e-commerce, from digital and trade perspectives.

59. A workshop on e-commerce was organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute, in Dhaka on 20 and 21 June 2017, and delivered by UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO). It was attended by around 40 participants from different government agencies, as well as members of private sector bodies. The presentations focused on global e-commerce trade and technology trends, key policy and regulation for e-commerce readiness, infrastructure for e-commerce facilitation, the multilateral aspects of e-commerce and the various programmes of assistance available to developing countries in the field of e-commerce. The workshop also allowed for a lively exchange among the stakeholders concerning the challenges and opportunities of e-commerce for the development of Bangladesh and the policy responses that could be developed.

60. In cooperation with WTO and the Pacific Islands Forum, a workshop on e-commerce was organized for 14 Pacific islands with about 80 participants. The workshop concluded with the adoption of recommendations, including a recommendation by the Pacific island countries to tap into the eTrade Readiness Assessment Programme to assist them in developing e-commerce in their respective countries.

61. In November 2017, UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Government of the Philippines and the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened in Manilla a workshop on e-commerce in support of the current Work Programme on E-commerce of the Association. About 60 participants from 9 ASEAN countries were represented and adopted a set of recommendations to be included in their work programme.

62. Preparations started for the delivery of a face-to-face workshop on the legal aspects of e-commerce to Malagasy lawyers and magistrates coming from different provinces to be held in the first quarter of 2018. From April to June 2017, an online course was followed by 100 participants aiming at strengthening their capacity to understand e-commerce legislation in the light of the international, regional and Malagasy instruments.

63. The global database on cyberlaws developed in 2015 (unctad.org/cyberlawtracker) was updated to reflect the state of e-commerce laws in 2017. In December 2017, 77 per cent of countries had legislation on e-transactions, 72 per cent on cybercrime; 58 per cent on privacy and 50 per cent on the protection of consumers online. In the case of the least developed countries, the proportion is much lower, therefore reducing their capacity to engage successfully in e-commerce and online activities.

64. The eTrade for all initiative is a concrete example of how the international community, in partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders, can come together to make e-commerce work for development. Six months after its launch, the online platform had about 2,600 monthly visitors on average, 70 per cent of which were returning visitors. In addition, 50 per cent of visitors came from developing countries. As of December 2017, 20 development solutions, representing the capacity-building and technical assistance offerings of eTrade for all partners, were promoted on the platform. More than 30 requests for assistance were channelled to the various partners of the initiative, according to the specific needs of the beneficiary countries soliciting them.

65. Joint events among partners were also organized, thanks to the ability of eTrade for all to act as partnership catalyst, such as a webinar among the Diplo Foundation and the E-residency programme of Estonia, and a side event on leveraging eTrade for all as a tool for sustainable development, organized during the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO in Buenos Aires in December 2017.

66. To create shared value and raise visibility of core issues on the agenda of eTrade for all partners, a monthly newsletter was also created and has been released since July 2017, reaching some 500 subscribers.

67. In partnership with donors and beneficiary countries, UNCTAD released rapid eTrade readiness assessments for Cambodia, Bhutan, Samoa and Nepal in 2017. As least developed countries or countries having recently graduated from the least developed country category, they benefitted from an analysis of the state of development of e-commerce in their countries, including challenges and opportunities at hand. The discussions held during the in-country missions and the recommendations contained in the national assessments are useful tools that countries can leverage to advance e-commerce development. Each assessment produced an action matrix with specific recommendations on how to improve eTrade readiness in seven policy areas: e-commerce strategy, ICT infrastructure and services, payments, trade logistics, legal and regulatory framework, skills development and financing for e-commerce.

68. Results. The ongoing work of UNCTAD on e-commerce and the digital economy continued to raise considerable interest among donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The UNCTAD secretariat received a rising number of requests from member States for capacity-building activities, and the number of participants in E-commerce Week rose from 300 to 1,000, compared with the previous year. Moreover, the number of partners of eTrade for all increased considerably. As of December 2017, 27 partners from the public sector and civil society had subscribed to the collective vision of supporting developing countries on their journey to e-commerce for development, while championing successful initiatives.

69. The analysis contained in the *Information Economy Report 2017* proposed ways in which the international community can reduce inequality, enable the benefits of digitalization to reach all people and ensure that no one is left behind by the evolving digital economy. By the end of the year, more than 240 news articles had been observed.

70. The new e-commerce strategy for Egypt will serve as a basis for that country's efforts to develop its e-commerce readiness. As stated by the country's Minister of Communications and Information Technology, "Egypt aspires to harness the power of e-commerce to help catalyze innovation, growth and social prosperity in the digital economy, support and enhance trade, enable the development of new businesses and services, and increase people's welfare. The strategy is a solid foundation for stimulating e-commerce growth in Egypt throughout the coming years; I wish to express my appreciation for all the efforts and dedication by UNCTAD."

71. As a result of the various activities related to e-commerce and legislative reform, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu sent a request for an eTrade readiness assessment. Discussions with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat were held to consolidate a proposal at the regional level to prepare a regional e-commerce strategy.

72. Recommendations made by Member States at the occasion of the ASEAN workshop on e-commerce provided valuable inputs into the ASEAN Work Programme on E-commerce and the drafting of the ASEAN Agreement on E-commerce.

73. A face-to-face workshop and other follow-up activities after the distance-learning course were planned to be held for Madagascar in 2018.

74. The pilot assessments of the eTrade readiness of Bhutan and Cambodia led to the development of a new fully fledged programme on rapid eTrade readiness assessments for the least developed countries. The pilots generated interest among new donors (Enhanced Integrated Framework and Germany), which will allow UNCTAD to carry out some 20 assessments in the coming 18–24 months.

75. Such assessments helped raise awareness on e-commerce in the beneficiary countries. The assessment preparation and the workshops organized onsite during the mission brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to engage in constructive discussions on the benefits, bottlenecks and actions to be taken in order to improve the ICT and e-commerce ecosystem. In all the countries assessed, the different e-commerce stakeholders met for the first time for such an exercise. Some countries, including Bhutan, prepared "quick win" projects as a result of the assessments.

76. At the same time, the speed at which the digital economy is unfolding, and the significant gaps that exist in terms of the ability and readiness of countries, enterprises

and individuals to engage in it, underline the urgency of scaling up global support for capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries, especially least developed countries, in this area. A particular challenge is that countries must address a large number of policy areas in parallel and in a coordinated manner, often without reliable statistics and other information to inform the decision-making process.

77. UNCTAD work on e-commerce and the digital economy was highlighted in the General Assembly resolution 72/200 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, which welcomed "the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in Geneva from 4 to 6 October 2017, and [was] looking forward to its policy recommendations".

78. It also urged "a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through initiatives such as eTrade for all, [...] which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in
e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund".

79. Finally, it recognized that UNCTAD "has initiated and implemented rapid eTrade readiness surveys of least developed countries in cooperation with other donors and organizations in order to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in the least developed countries".

A6 Investment guides

Table A6
Investment guides

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Norway
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity-building in investment for development (Benin)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity-building in investment for development (Bangladesh)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity-building in investment for development (Kenya)	2015–	Netherlands

80. Development context. The investment guides (iGuides) programme provides developing country Governments with the necessary capacity to better market their countries or territories as investment destinations to the global investment community, in order to attract quality FDI in pursuit of their development goals.

81. Objectives and features. The iGuides online platforms, designed by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce, provide international investors with essential up-to-date information on rules, economic conditions, procedures, business costs and investment opportunities in developing countries. The platforms are developed jointly with beneficiary Governments, at their request. Content includes the following:

(a) Locally available costs. In addition to taxes, social contributions or the state of infrastructure, iGuides provide indicative price ranges of wages, rents, consumer goods and transportation costs. This hard-to-find information enables investors to build a basic business model for their projects.

(b) Relevant licences, procedures and useful contacts. iGuides platforms give an overview of procedures and licences required to start a business, obtain work permits, acquire land, clear imported goods or repatriate funds. Contact persons are also identified

in the most useful institutions and offices. iGuides can integrate seamlessly with existing eRegulations systems to provide full information on start-up and business procedures.

(c) Experiences of established investors. Whether the topic is paying taxes, hiring labour or obtaining electricity, iGuides platforms summarize the experiences of established investors and provide case studies of their investment history.

82. During a project, UNCTAD creates a national iGuides platform for the country and trains the government staff assigned to the project in researching and compiling the necessary information and entering it into the system. Once completed, an official launch is organized in the country, and the platform is made publicly available to investors. At the end of project implementation, the beneficiary country has its own iGuides platform and trained staff to administer and update it under the continuous guidance of UNCTAD. The iGuides online platforms replace the previous practice of publishing printed investment guides. It is essential that the new iGuides allow information to be kept up to date by Governments and may be accomplished in a third of the time and at half of the cost.

83. Outputs. In 2017, iGuides were completed in Bangladesh and Benin, and for counties in Kenya. Work started on iGuides for the Congo, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa. In addition, online training was conducted for government officials and investment promotion agencies in beneficiary countries to continuously update information in their existing national iGuides.

84. Results. Unlike sit-on-the-shelf publications, iGuides are web based, and any element may be easily updated at any time to reflect changes in legislation, infrastructure, costs or taxes. iGuides therefore remain relevant and useful to their audience. In addition, Governments (not UNCTAD) are responsible for researching, inputting and updating data based on information standards and training provided by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce. The iGuide launches enjoy high-level participation and receive extensive press coverage. Governments have updated their sites, showing retained capacity to update the website in an effective manner and the continued relevance of the website. The availability of online training allows staff working on iGuides to more easily transfer knowledge and capacity to their peers.

A7 Non-tariff measures

Table A7
Non-tariff measures

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/CBG	Non-tariff measures trust fund (under Transparency in Trade programme)	2013–	World Bank
INT/0T/FAU	Non-tariff measures data collection for APEC economies	2016–	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
INT/0T/GAQ	Non-tariff measures data update for selected major economies	2017–	Public donations
INT/9X/00J	TRAINS: Development and dissemination of selected computerized trade data	2000–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/FAD	Non-tariff measures for East Asia and ASEAN countries	2016–	Conference Board of Canada
ROA-2962 (N9)	Strengthening capacities of policymakers to assess implications of non-tariff measures in international trade and formulate appropriate	2014–	Development Account

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	policy responses		

85. Development context. Regulations, including behind-the-border regulations protecting the health and the environment, affect 90 per cent of merchandise trade. Such non-tariff measures are policy measures, other than customs tariffs, which often have an impact on international trade in terms of quantities traded or prices. Those measures, although mostly legislated with non-protectionist and non-discriminating intents, can have important implications for international trade both in terms of increasing trade costs and the effects of trade diversion. Non-tariff measures affect trade by raising trade, compliance and procedural costs, which often disproportionately burden small enterprises and poorer countries. The least developed countries and smaller producers in developing countries are disproportionately affected, hampering trade and economic development. Striking a balance between trade costs and regulatory benefits requires transparency, policy coherence and international-level regulatory convergence. For developing countries, understanding the uses and implications of such measures is essential for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies.

86. Objectives and features of the programme. The UNCTAD Programme on Non-Tariff Measures aims to increase transparency and understanding of trade control measures and regulations so that policies can better promote sustainable development. The programme covers the entire chain of non-tariff measures, ranging from conception,[6] data collection and dissemination, to research, policy advice and capacity-building in countries and regional integration groupings. UNCTAD leads international cooperation (working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Monetary Fund, the International Trade Centre, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and WTO) on the development and revision of the International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures and with regional and international partners, in addition to the African Development Bank, the Latin American Integration Association, the East African Community, ECOWAS, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), THE National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Commission for Africa. This ensures a globally coordinated and resource-saving approach. UNCTAD assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition in enhancing transparency and building analytical capacity on non-tariff measures by the following means: collecting and making available online data on such measures to enhance transparency on these measures; conducing regional reviews of non-tariff measure integration; providing online and in-country training on data collection on non-tariff measures and on data sources, tools, methods and policy-relevant research questions on non-tariff measures; and providing advisory services upon request to countries and regional groupings in building up capacities to address such measures and remove non-tariff barriers. Also, UNCTAD has been working on research and capacity-building related to non-tariff measures since the early 1980s. It assists policymakers along the entire value chain of non-tariff measures, ranging from the definition and classification to data collection and dissemination, to research and policy support.

87. Output. UNTAD delivered the following services in 2017:

(a) The UNCTAD database on non-tariff measures, TRAINS, is the world's largest and most comprehensive, covering 85 per cent of world trade. Data dissemination was improved with the launching of a new dissemination tool for non-tariff measures in Argentina on 11 December: trains.unctad.org;

(b) Data on non-tariff measures for some 40 countries were updated or newly collected;

[6] Conception focuses on the policies and regulations that determine trade and market access, and how information about non-tariff measures can be structured

(c) UNCTAD conducted capacity-building through online trainings and face-to-face workshops on non-tariff measures. The third edition of the online course on non-tariff measures and data collection, scheduled for July 10 to August 27, admitted 117 participants from 57 countries. A region-specific course for African national standard bureau officials was finalized in early 2017. A course on non-tariff measures for Geneva-based delegates was conducted on 17 March 2017. Face-to-face trainings were conducted in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as in countries with economies in transition;

(d) To support the Tripartite (COMESA, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community) in its effort to increase transparency on non-tariff measures, UNCTAD conducted face-to-face non-tariff measures data collection training and validation workshops in Zimbabwe on 15–19 May, in Kenya on 10–14 July and in the United Republic of Tanzania on 20–24 November. In Zimbabwe, the national workshop was attended by 42 officials, including 18 women from 15 different Government institutions. In Kenya, the regional workshop was organized for 14 experts on technical barriers to trade from 7 pilot Tripartite Member States, namely Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the national workshop was attended by 36 officials (15 women) from 16 government institutions;

(e) UNCTAD provided technical advice to support the CFTA negotiations on non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade (all three are appendices to the annex/Protocol on Goods), including at the meeting of the CFTA Technical Working Groups in Kigali (February); the CFTA Negotiating Forum in Addis (February/March); the ECOWAS regional coordination meeting in Accra (May); and the meeting of the CFTA Technical Working Groups in Durban (August);

(f) In China (Qingdao, 27–29 May), Thailand (Bangkok, 30 May), and Viet Nam (Hanoi), government officials, as well as other stakeholders such as private sector representatives from these countries, were trained to strengthen their capacity for good regulatory policies and regional integration and to enhance their competitiveness;

(g) Together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Inter-American Development Bank, UNCTAD co-organized the sixth Regional Event on Public Policy and Computable General Equilibrium Models in Lima on 7 and 8 November. The objective of the regional meeting was to establish a space for dialogue among policymakers and trade practitioners to strengthen their analytical capabilities to evaluate public policies. Special attention was given to non-tariff measures. During the meeting, UNCTAD launched a book entitled "*Economic and Policy Implications of Non-Tariff Measures to Trade: Overview and Case Studies from Developing Countries*". The publication, an output of Development Account project 1415N, provides an overview on the rules and disciplines governing the use of non-tariff measures and how these measures influence international trade. Another contribution of the non-tariff measures programme was to support a workshop in Colombia on non-tariff measures concerning bio-trade products;

(h) UNCTAD provided support to policymakers on regulatory policies affecting trade, upon request, to countries and regional secretariats, including the African Union Commission, ASEAN, the Eurasian Economic Commission, ECOWAS, the Southern Common Market, and the Tripartite.[7] UNCTAD supported the African CFTA negotiations on non-tariff measures (sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade and non-tariff barriers) in several technical meetings in Africa (Kigali, 6–9 February; Addis Ababa, 27 February–2 March and Accra, 16 and 17 May);

(i) The secretariat and members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States received support with a special issue of *Trends in Trade Statistics and Trade Policy* of UNCTAD. The first edition was developed jointly in 2017 with the secretariat and delegates of the Group in Brussels. For example, a draft was presented and discussed at the ministerial meeting on 9 November 2017 in Brussels.

[7] The Tripartite is composed of the East African Community, COMESA and the Southern African Development Community.

88. Results. In 2017, several important results were achieved. First, with regional and national ownership, the Tripartite is intensively working to increase transparency on non-tariff measures. The regional transparency initiative has adopted the data collection approach of UNCTAD and is receiving technical support. UNCTAD assistance in the data collection process has also led to a stronger involvement of national standards bodies with the ministries of trade, which is leading to greater national and regional policy coherence (Sustainable Development Goal target 17.14 / indicator 17.14.1).

89. Second, based on a Heads-of-State mandate, the project led by UNCTAD and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia significantly increased transparency on non-tariff measures in the ASEAN region. The forty-ninth ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, held on 7–10 September 2017, recognized the UNCTAD–Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia data and dissemination portal (asean.i-tip.org) as a foundation to address non-tariff measures and mandated a regular review of the database. Furthermore, the data has been used for the implementation of customs single windows in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. ASEAN members envisage using the joint data to explore possibilities to harmonize non-tariff measures within ASEAN.

90. Third, in the negotiations for the African CFTA, the draft texts and discussions are building strongly on the regulatory approach and the transparency measures that are being implemented by the Tripartite region in collaboration with UNCTAD. The lessons learned from the Tripartite, with UNCTAD support on transparency and analysis, are serving as building blocks for the continental integration model. Advice was also provided directly on non-tariff barriers and non-tariff measures that helped CFTA negotiators to make progress on the drafting of protocols on non-tariff barriers, technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

91. Fourth, the Latin American Integration Association is continuing to promote trade through the continuous provision of updated information on non-tariff measures to policymakers, exporters and importers, based on UNCTAD methodology and technical support. Southern Common Market countries are revitalizing their efforts towards deep economic integration, including based on an UNCTAD regional non-tariff measures integration review providing background data on and analysis of non-tariff measures.

A8 National green export reviews

92. Through the national green export reviews, UNCTAD continued to assist beneficiary countries in examining and developing green productive and export capacities as an option for transition into greener and more climate-resilient economies under a United Nations Development Account project on supporting Member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews. UNCTAD organized national stakeholder workshops in beneficiary countries to train participants in identifying promising sustainable product sectors based on country-specific results generated by the product space methodology of UNCTAD; identify national and global market opportunities; identify barriers to production and export; and select sectors and products as the focus of further development. New national green export reviews were launched in the Republic of Moldova and Senegal with the organization of the first national stakeholder green export review workshops. In Ethiopia and Madagascar, the reviews, which include draft recommendations and action plans, were examined and validated. In Morocco, a sustainability and monitoring period review meeting was convened. UNCTAD also participated in a seminar organized by the Islamic Development Bank on preparations for the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Casablanca, Morocco, from 17 to 19 July. The national green export review for Senegal is primarily funded by the Islamic Development Bank, but it also benefits from the United Nations Development Account project.

93. UNCTAD started implementing the national green export review of Angola under the European Union–UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola. The baseline report of the

review was finalized in 2017 and will be the basis of the first national stakeholder green export review workshop scheduled in June 2018.

94. The Creative Economy Network continued to facilitate information sharing and best practices, forging strategic alliances and networking among Governments, creators, the business community and civil society. UNCTAD also updated its online database summarizing the global trade of creative goods and services. The database provides an essential tool to demonstrate the potential of the creative economy to foster socioeconomic development. UNCTAD also continued its analytical work on the *Creative Economy Report*. The publication will emphasize the trade and development dimensions of the creative industries, and integrate key developments in ICTs, innovation, capital and sustainable development. UNCTAD continued its ongoing collaboration with the Istanbul Commerce University, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, the Shanghai Design Association and the Shanghai Municipal Government in carrying out joint activities on the creative economy and sustainable development, as well as the provision of technical advice on key creative economy services. The first draft of the *Creative Economy Outlook and Country Profiles: Trends in International Trade in Creative Industries, 2017* was prepared. It highlights potential opportunities for countries, especially developing countries, to increase their production, exports and share in creative industries markets. This is the second report issued by UNCTAD that follows on the trade performance of developing and developed countries in key creative industries sectors such as design, music, film, television, broadcasting, books, arts and crafts, and new media. This report will be published in 2018.

95. In increasing the awareness and understanding of issues related to sustainable trade and the environment by public and private stakeholders, UNCTAD organized and/or participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences and relevant discussions of international development processes. A complete list of events in 2017 is provided below:

(a) Third National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Port Vila, 13–17 February;

(b) BIOFACH 2017, Nuremberg, Germany, 17 February;

(c) Third National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Rabat, 7 and 8 March;

(d) Symposium on Creative Finance 2017, Nairobi, 8 and 9 March;

(e) Meeting with the Ministry of Economy and Dubai Exports, Dubai, 13 and 14 March;

(f) Sixth Global Economic Summit on Women's Empowerment, Mumbai, 27–29 March;

(g) InCosmetics Fair 2017, London, 4 and 5 April;

(h) Second National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Addis Ababa, 17–21 April,

(i) Healthy Oceans – Healthy Coasts, international leadership conference on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, Hong Kong, China, 25 and 26 April;

(j) Side event on working for a better economy and a better environment: cooperation between WTO and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Geneva, 2 May;

(k) Second National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Muscat, 9 and 10 May;

(l) Beijing International Creative Economy Forum, Beijing, 29 May to 1 June;

(m) Beauty of Sourcing with Respect 2017, Paris, 1 and 2 June;

(n) East African Organic Policy Forum on the opportunities for enhancing markets for organic products via tourism sectors, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 1 and 2 June;

(o) Africa Carbon Forum 2017, Cotonou, 27–30 June;

(p) Multilateral Development Banks Working Group on Culture and Creative Industries, Washington, D.C., 13 and 14 July;

(q) Second National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Antsirabe, Madagascar, 17 and 18 July, and Antananarivo, 20 July;

(r) First National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Chisinau, 7 September;

(s) Workshop on the challenges and opportunities of market development and commercialization of biodiversity-friendly goods and services in Mesoamerica, San José, 25–30 September;

(t) WTO Public Forum 2017 on the theme, "Trade: Behind the headlines", Geneva, 26–28 September;

(u) FAO–UNCTAD session on challenges and opportunities for small-scale fishers in the fish trade, Geneva, 27 September;

(v) FAO–UNCTAD session on how the agricultural and fisheries trade can contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Geneva, 28 September;

(w) Twenty-fifth Congress of the European Network on Cultural Management and Policy on the theme "Click, connect and collaborate! New directions in sustaining cultural networks", Brussels, 27–30 September;

(x) European Union Commission event on the theme "Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's coastal communities", Tallinn, 11–13 October;

(y) Seminar on institutional actors and international cooperation: Perspectives and actions for sustainable development in times of peace, Paris, 20 October;

(z) Regional conference on creativity, jobs and local economic development in the southern Mediterranean, Algiers, 14 and 15 November;

(aa) First National Stakeholder Green Export Review, Dakar, 24 and 25 October;

(bb) Traceability for Sustainable Trade, Geneva, 29 November;

(cc) Exploratory mission for the Lebanon national green export review project, Beirut, 29 November to 2 December;

(dd) International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas, Malta, 30 November to 1 December;

(ee) Seminar on biodiversity valorization on the theme "How do BioTrade networks contribute to a sustainable economy?", Paris, 3 and 4 December;

(ff) Workshop on the impact of creative industries in the local economy, Chebut, Argentina, 7 and 8 December.

96. The following reports and publications were prepared and/or finalized:

(a) Examen national de l'export vert du Maroc: Produits oléicoles, romarin et thym (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/1 rev.1);

(b) Report of the fourth BioTrade Congress (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/2);

(c) Trade-related fisheries targets: Sustainable Development Goal 14, summary document, Informal Preparatory Working Group 4 (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/3);

(d) *Strengthening the Creative Industries for Development in the Republic of Korea* (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/4);

(e) *A Handbook for BioTrade and ABS Policymakers and Regulators: From Concept to Practice* (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/6);

(f) Examen national de l'export vert de Madagascar: Étude de base de la CNUCED (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/7);

(g) National green export review for Angola (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/8);

(h) Technical fact sheet on Japan: Non-tariff measures applicable to biodiversity and BioTrade products: Personal care, food and phyto-pharma sectors (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/9);

(i) Technical fact sheet on the European Union: Non-tariff measures applicable to biodiversity and BioTrade products: personal care, food and phyto-pharma sectors (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/10);

(j) Technical fact sheet on Switzerland: Non-tariff measures applicable to biodiversity and BioTrade products: Personal care, food and phyto-pharma sectors (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/11);

(k) Technical fact sheet on the United States: Non-tariff measures applicable to biodiversity and BioTrade products: personal care, food and phyto-pharma sectors (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/12);

(l) Climate policies, economic diversification and trade (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/13);

(m) Linking Goals 15 and 16: BioTrade experiences in Indonesia and Colombia (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/14);

(n) Conference room paper for the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Implementing the Paris Agreement: Response Measures, Economic Diversification and Trade (http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ditc-ted-03102017-Trade-Measures-UNCTAD-CRP.pdf);

(o) *National Green Export Review of Ethiopia: Leather and Sesame Seeds* (forthcoming).

97. Results. UNCTAD strengthened its collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and forged strategic partnerships with different institutions and organizations. As such, joint organization of various events and implementation of activities have raised the visibility of UNCTAD work on sustainable trade and the environment. Its work on the trade-related aspects of Goal 14 was highlighted during the United Nations Ocean Conference in New York. Jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme and FAO, UNCTAD submitted a voluntary commitment to assist countries in implementing effective, inclusive and sustainable policies in the sustainable trade in fisheries. UNCTAD is also committed to supporting efforts aimed at phasing out harmful subsidies between now and 2020. A new project on evidence-based and policy-coherent oceans economy and trade strategies, with the support of the United Nations Development Account, will be launched in 2018.

98. UNCTAD, through the BioTrade Initiative, was one of the early movers in promoting the trade and investment in biodiversity-based products and services in developing countries to further sustainable development. It was successful in preparing the ground for creating an enabling environment for developing biodiversity-related sectors by building partnerships with key public and private actors, promoting sustainable business ventures and providing inputs to policymaking in beneficiary countries. Through the years, the issue of linking nature conservation and sustainable development has gained international attention. From promoting the trade in biodiversity-based resources, work has expanded to cover emerging biodiversity-related issues such as traceability – ensuring that BioTrade is legal and sustainable throughout the value chain; non-tariff measures – identifying, mapping and addressing ways to overcome relevant non-tariff measures that hinder BioTrade business and exports; and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing – guiding and supporting regulators in defining a BioTrade-friendly regulatory framework and implementation strategy, among others. As a result, several institutions and organizations embarked on working on these and other areas, and UNCTAD has increasingly seen the launching of numerous BioTrade-related initiatives working on specific issues that are relevant to the community of BioTrade partners. UNCTAD has successfully implemented the third phase of the BioTrade Facilitation Programme funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. The programme was instrumental in placing and streamlining BioTrade in policy agendas and broader sustainability agendas, providing policy advice, and mobilizing and convening key stakeholders.

99. Beneficiary countries of the national green export review project have increased their capacity in identifying, selecting and validating the growth potential of green sectors and products. The capacity- and consensus-building national workshops assisted stakeholders in assessing the policy, regulatory and institutional requirements for supporting the development of selected sustainable product sectors. The technical assistance provided empowered them to identify reforms and adopt recommendations and action plans in selected sustainable product sectors, thereby creating an enabling environment for their production and export. National green export reviews are country owned and stakeholder driven, and the eventual implementation of the action plan validated by both the public and private stakeholders will contribute to generating new employment, increasing export opportunities and advancing sustainable development. The adoption of such reviews presents an opportunity to venture into innovative approaches to building production and export capacity in diverse sectors. To date, national green export reviews for Ecuador, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco and Vanuatu have been completed. Reviews for Lebanon, the Republic of Moldova, Oman and Senegal are currently under way. The national green export review project continues to provide a strong base to garner country awareness and interest in the reviews and to leverage funding for additional reviews.

A9 Trade negotiations

Table A9
Trade negotiations

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/9AU	General trust fund on WTO accession	2009–	Norway
INT/9X/77I	Technical cooperation on market access, trade laws and preferences	1997–	Multi-donors

100. Development context. Multilateral trade cooperation is essential for Goal 17 to revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, especially target 17.10 to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO. UNCTAD contributed actively to Goal 17 through the three pillars of its work. Significant challenges confronted policymakers in their endeavour to harvest the potential of trade for sustainable development. Recently, the outlook for multilateral trade cooperation has come under pressure with the rise of a discourse against globalization and multilateralism. Inward-looking and beggar-thy-neighbour policy stances in major trading nations have resurged. The extent of discontent has led to significant course correction, setbacks or renegotiations of existing and proposed trading arrangements, not to mention the protracted WTO negotiations and the proliferation of bilateral and regional initiatives. In this regard, the outcomes of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO (Buenos Aires, 10-13 December 2017) have increased the risk of dormant negotiations in the Doha Round, and, in the long run, of further ineffectiveness within the multilateral trade system in general.

101. Efforts intensified to deepen and consolidate regional integration in developing world. In Africa, the CFTA is considered a centrepiece of the African economic agenda for structural transformation and inclusive growth and development, as encapsulated in African Agenda 2063 for a united and prosperous Africa. The African Union Heads of States in their Summit in January 2012 adopted a decision to establish a Continental Free Trade Area by an indicative date of 2017. Since then the African Union member States, supported by the African Union Commission and with assistance from partners, including the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, UNCTAD and others, have been developing the framework agreement and various protocols that would form the framework for setting up the Continental Free Trade Area. On 21 March 2018, Member States of the African Union signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement during an extraordinary summit of the African Union in Kigali, launching the process for the implementation of actions to realize the Continental Free Trade Area.

102. Accession to WTO constitutes an important trade and development objective of countries in the process of acceding to the Organization. The process of WTO accession represents a challenge. It is complex and requires significant national trade and broader economic policy reforms. The terms of WTO accession have a major bearing on their development prospects. Thus, in negotiating such terms with WTO members, the challenges of ensuring that WTO accession has a beneficial impact are further increased by the capacity constraints facing acceding countries, including with respect to human and physical resources, trade policy expertise and support institutions. Preparation for and participation in accession negotiations require considerable financial and human resources. Supporting acceding countries' efforts to better prepare and manage trade policy reform and negotiating processes and build national institutions is of utmost importance.

103. Against this backdrop, trade negotiating support remains critically important for developing countries, particularly for the least developed countries, Africa and small vulnerable economies, as various substantive negotiating agenda issues are of particular relevance to sustainable development. Such support would be required particularly for agriculture, food security, domestic support, cotton, non-agricultural market access, non-tariff measures, services market access, domestic regulations, services trade facilitation, services preferences, duty-free and quota-free market access, rules of origin, special and differential treatment and fishery subsidies. Since there remains commitment of WTO Members to address these Doha Round issues, continued and enhanced support would remain warranted, including in the context of WTO accession. This would make a direct and urgently needed contribution to Goal 17.

104. Objective. UNCTAD support for trade negotiations is aimed at helping beneficiaries[8] build analytical, human, regulatory and institutional capacities in multilateral and regional trade negotiations, regulatory and institutional frameworks for services at the national levels, WTO accession, and at supporting regional cooperation mechanisms and the utilization of trade preferences. The support provided assists countries in identifying negotiating priorities and in negotiating and implementing bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements in a coherent manner that reflects their critical development concerns and interests, especially by building productive capacities and creating employment. Greater attention is also given to enhancing the development impact of South–South and South–North trade.

105. Outputs. UNCTAD organized a high-level event entitled "The Multilateral Trading System: Time to Re-Energize?" on 11 December in connection with the eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires. The event gathering four trade ministers and two heads of United Nations agencies discussed viable options for transforming global trade with positive welfare benefits for societies. Noting that recently, the multilateral trading system has come under growing pressure in delivering on prosperity and development promises, the meeting recalled the value of multilateralism and the commitment to its development dimension as one shared by all countries. This event provided an opportunity to discuss the core elements of a multilateral trading system driven by the Sustainable Development Goals.

106. UNCTAD extended advisory and analytical support to individual countries and developing country groupings in their engagement in the ongoing Doha Round negotiations to help them better understand the development implications of granting technical issues on the negotiating agenda. In 2017, UNCTAD assisted countries in the follow-up to the tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO and in preparation for the eleventh Ministerial Conference through capacity-building support, advisory services and analytical support. These activities were extended to trade negotiators and policymakers in individual developing countries, as well as country groupings such as the least developed countries, the African Group and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, contributing to their greater preparedness and technical capacities with regard to such technical issues as agriculture, non-agricultural market access negotiations, services, rules and trade facilitation, as well as other topics of trade policy and negotiations, in defending them and linking them to their broader

[8] Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and their regional groupings, African countries, small and vulnerable economies, and countries with economies in transition.

development goals such as industriali. ation. A substantial number of activities were carried out to address heightened technical cooperation and capacity-building needs of developing countries in assessing the developmental implications of the outcomes that emerged from the tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO, and identifying practical policy options for their informed policymaking with regard to multilateral trade negotiations specifically and within an evolving international trading system more generally. For instance, UNCTAD participated in a retreat of the African Group of Ambassadors and Experts in preparation for eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO (6 and 7 July 2017, Geneva).

107. African countries are engaged in Continental Free Trade Area negotiations with a view to expanding trading opportunities for African countries' exports of agriculture, goods and services. UNCTAD analysis, technical assistance and advisory services have contributed to assisting African countries, the African Union Commission, African regional economic communities and individual countries in addressing negotiation issues. Such support was provided in close cooperation with the African Union Commission. UNCTAD intervention has focused on assisting African Union members in three main areas: in conceptualizing and developing different options in CFTA negotiating modalities in goods and services; in assessing economic implications of different options to identify the best possible options, such as in identifying priority sectors or sensitive products; and assisting them in finalizing the drafting of legal texts regarding the Continental Free Trade Area, including the framework agreement, agreement on goods and services. Other assistance included support for regional economic communities in regional consultations, training activities and analytical inputs for individual countries.

108. In 2017, UNCTAD contributed to the following sessions of the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiating Forum and associated bodies:

(a) Seventh meeting of the CFTA Task Force, Nairobi, 9–11 January;

(b) Second CFTA Technical Working Group on Services, Nairobi,1–5 May;

(c) Fifth meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum, Addis Ababa, 27 February–1 March;

(d) Sixth meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum, Niamey, 5–16 June;

(e) Seventh meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum, Addis Abba, 2–7 October;

(f) Tenth meeting of the CFTA Continental Task Force, Addis Abba, 9–13 October;

(g) Second dedicated session on the Agreement on Trade in Goods, Abuja, 6–10 November;

(h) Eighth meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum, Abuja, 20–25 November.

109. Substantive support was also provided to the following high-level meetings of other regional groupings and related events, and preparatory processes thereof, to identify their common negotiating platforms in multilateral and regional trade negotiations:

(a) United Nations Development Programme–Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – first meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Sustainable Development Goals in Arab Countries, Cairo, 9–10 May;

(b) Retreat with senior directors of the League of Arab States in charge of economic integration, Cairo, 8 June;

(c) Workshop on facilitating the launch of the Arab Customs Union and preferential trade agreements, Cairo, 2 and 3 July;

(d) Expert Group Meeting on Central European Free Trade Agreement negotiations, Podgorica, 6–8 December;

(e) Second meeting of the United Nations Development Programme–SIDA Working Group on Trade and Sustainable Development Goals, Cairo, 17–21 September;

(f) Workshop for Arab countries on the preparation for the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO, Dubai, 30 October–1 November;

(g) Workshop on negotiating skills for the common external tariff and the impact of the Arab Customs Union on the Lebanese economy, Beirut, 18 and 19 October.

110. UNCTAD assisted 22 acceding countries, including all acceding least developed countries [9] that were negotiating or preparing their accession to WTO. Technical cooperation and capacity-building support were provided through, inter alia, training activities for countries' negotiating teams and other stakeholders; simulation exercises to prepare for negotiations in the WTO Working Party sessions and with trading partners; attachment of selected trade policymakers to UNCTAD; advisory missions on the substance and process of WTO accession; substantive support for the preparation of accession negotiations, including the preparation of required documentation such as a memorandum of foreign trade regime and elaboration of market access offers; and organization of national multi-stakeholder consultative meetings and awareness-raising events, including for the private sector and academia, as well as for parliamentarians.

111. The following advisory services and capacity-building activities were provided:

(a) Information and experience sharing session on WTO accession issues for Iraqi trade negotiators, Geneva, 16 and 17 November;

(b) Technical consultations with key Azerbaijani negotiators on WTO accession issues, Geneva, 21 and 22 July;

(c) Technical consultations with key Comorian negotiators on WTO accession issues, Geneva, 1 and 2 June;

(d) Consultations with key Sudanese negotiators on WTO accession issues, Geneva, 14 July.

112. UNCTAD participated in the Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for the Greater Horn of Africa (Nairobi, 28–30 August) with a focus on regional integration and strengthening the multilateral trading system. This event was specifically tailored for acceding Governments in the Greater Horn of Africa region – Comoros, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Sudan, and South Sudan. During the meeting, UNCTAD provided substantial policy advice and assistance on trade policies towards coherence in policy measures, laws and regulations with due consideration of WTO requirements in adopting and implementing these measures.

113. In implementing work on WTO accession, UNCTAD collaborated and maintained close cooperation with the WTO secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Swedish International Development Agency and the United Nations Development Programme. An extensive network of cooperation had been established with national trade institutions, and trade policymakers and regular contacts are maintained with donors. In beneficiary countries, WTO accession-related activities of UNCTAD have complemented the assistance provided by bilateral donors.

114. UNCTAD further collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America in the implementation of the Development Account Project (9th tranche) on enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade. UNCTAD co-organized and participated in a side event during the WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade on the theme "Fostering trade, inclusivity, and connectivity through preferential trade agreements" (12 July) and co-hosted, together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, a global meeting on enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade (14 July). The meetings allowed participants to exchange experiences and lessons learned in designing and implementing adequate national trade policies and trade agreements to foster inclusive trade and sustainable development.

[9] Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Liberia, Samoa, Seychelles, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

115. Trade negotiation capacities of countries were also built through the provision of training courses organized under Paragraph 166 and the Virtual Institute, including the thirty-eighth regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda for Asia and the Pacific (Singapore, 3 November to 1 December). These contributed to better preparedness and technical capacities with regard to trade policy and multilateral and regional negotiations.

116. Results and impacts. UNCTAD contributed substantially to the strengthened capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to integrate beneficially into the global economy and the international trading system, and to design and implement trade policies and participate effectively and coherently in bilateral, regional, and South–South and North–South trade cooperation, as well as in multilateral trade negotiations. UNCTAD support activities contributed to an enhanced understanding of developing countries' policymakers and trade negotiators on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development, and developmental provisions and flexibilities that are particularly important in creating an enabling environment in the international trading system. The action of UNCTAD had a strong positive impact by strengthening human, institutional, and regulatory capacities in trade-related policies and negotiations in these countries.

117. UNCTAD support for CFTA negotiators was strongly appreciated by the beneficiaries. In her letter of 10 March to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry stated: "I am glad to inform you that African Ministers of Trade have noted with appreciation the support of UNCTAD and requested additional technical support for the CFTA negotiations". Further, "UNCTAD's contribution to the CFTA Negotiating Forum is critical and [it is] my sincere hope that you will continue to make your teams available to support the CFTA in its various institutions – including but not limited to the CFTA Negotiating Forum". Appreciation for the contribution of UNCTAD has was also expressed by the African Union Commission, Member States and regional economic communities. For instance, the Chair of the African Union Commission thanked UNCTAD for its support during the thirtieth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2018.

118. UNCTAD has an important comparative advantage on WTO accession. Its strength is that it has wide-ranging and multidisciplinary expertise in trade negotiations, trade agreements and trade policies, supported by extensive experience in providing technical assistance to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the context of accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/WTO and participation in multilateral trade negotiations. The assistance provided was intensive and broad. In response to countries' demand, assistance focuses on both the substantive aspects of WTO accession negotiations and on the wider developmental implications in terms of policy, regulatory and institutional changes that need to be undertaken to equip countries with the capabilities to benefit from WTO membership in terms of trade expansion, economic growth and development. UNCTAD successfully supported the accession negotiations of a number of countries-beneficiaries of the UNCTAD General Trust Fund for WTO Accession. These recently became WTO Members: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Seychelles and Yemen.

119. The work of UNCTAD on WTO accession has been evaluated and commended by independent evaluators (TD/B/WP/190). Furthermore, the number of requests for technical assistance and capacity-building on accession and post-accession issues has increased over the past few years. Limited human and financial resources constrain the provision of assistance on WTO accession. In order to meet the increased demands from acceding developing countries and countries with economies in transition, UNCTAD requires additional funds to be provided on a sustained basis so that it can continue to support these countries.

A10 Sustainable trade and the environment

Table A10
Sustainable trade and the environment

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/3BB	Consultative task force on environmental requirements and international trade	2003–	Netherlands
INT/0T/EBF	BioTrade Facilitation Programme, phase III	2015–	Switzerland
ROA-1617 (110)	Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security	2016–	Development Account
ROA-2960 (L9)	Supporting member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews	2014–	Development Account

120. Development context. The Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development recognized that countries' transition to a green economy can make increasing contributions to sustainable development and poverty eradication through economic diversification, employment creation, export earnings, environmental protection and social equity. Sustainable products, defined as internationally traded goods and services that are sustainably produced and promote sustainable consumption, offer considerable export opportunities for developing countries. Many sustainable products are produced in rural areas by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and by lower- and medium-skilled workers, including women and youth. Their production can contribute significantly to environmental protection, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, economic diversification, job creation and poverty reduction in economically marginalized rural areas of developing countries. To seize these new inclusive and sustainable growth opportunities, developing countries need strengthened capacity to identify their production and export strengths for sustainable products, sustainable use and trade of biodiversity-derived products and services, and put into place national policies, regulations and institutions needed to create an enabling environment for their production and export.

121. Objectives and features. Programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment aim to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in designing and implementing mutually supportive trade, environment, climate change and sustainable development strategies while integrating sustainable development objectives at all levels. UNCTAD explores the trade opportunities arising from multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment-related negotiations. It promotes sustainable trade in sectors that contribute to further economic growth, job creation and opportunities for social inclusion, and biodiversity conservation. UNCTAD work is based on requests from developing countries to examine the development impact and economic repercussions of existing and potential multilateral environmental agreements, as well as trade and environment negotiations, and how best to address the challenges and seize the opportunities related to trade. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles set out in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCTAD facilitates multilateral and expert processes in areas in which the environmental aspect is central to trade. Making economic growth compatible with sustainable development requires adequate policies and mechanisms, and UNCTAD programmes and initiatives on sustainable trade and the environment work towards stimulating economic diversification, creating jobs, raising income levels, fostering environmental protection and conserving biodiversity resources, thereby improving living standards.

122. Outputs. UNCTAD supported efforts in raising awareness and advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by means of the Climate Change Programme. In the lead-up to the United Nations Ocean Conference, UNCTAD organized events that discussed policy and regulatory options for advancing the implementation of trade-in-fish-related targets under Goal 14 by drawing on global, regional and cross-country

experiences, sharing lessons, sensitizing development partnerships and designing more effective support measures. With its partners, UNCTAD organized and/or participated in the following events:

(a) Briefing on the 2017 United Nations High-level Ocean Conference, Geneva, 16 January;

(b) Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14, Geneva, 21 and 22 March;

(c) Briefing on the fisheries regulatory framework at the multilateral level, Geneva, 20 March;

(d) WTO Negotiating Group on Rules technical briefing/information session on Goal 14, Geneva, 27 March;

(e) FAO–UNCTAD information session for Permanent Representatives on the trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14, Rome, 3 May.

123. UNCTAD participated in the United Nations Ocean Conference held in New York, United States, on 5–9 June 2017. At the Partnership Dialogue 4 on making fisheries sustainable and the fifth plenary meeting of 7 June 2017, UNCTAD called for an end to harmful subsidies, which not only pose a sustainability challenge but also contribute to distorting market prices, generating unfair competition between industrial fleets and small-scale and artisanal fishermen, and expanding inequality between developed and developing countries. During the Conference, the following events were organized:

(a) Event on trade-in-fish-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14 held jointly by UNCTAD, FAO, WTO, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Ocean Institute, 6 June;

(b) UNCTAD–FAO–UNEP joint side event on fisheries subsidies with a focus on the path toward a sustainable global agreement, 6 June;

(c) Joint side event of UNCTAD, the Latin American Development Bank, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the International Ocean Institute on blue BioTrade on the theme "Harnessing trade and investment for sustainable use", 8 June;

(d) Joint event of UNCTAD, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat: High-level exchange – Pacific leadership through innovative approaches to the oceans economy – Pacific 2050, 8 June.

124. An ad hoc expert group meeting on implementing the Paris Agreement was organized in Geneva on 3 October. The expert meeting explored the role of value chains in the interface between response measures and trade. The outcome of the meeting served as an input to the work of the Forum under the Paris Agreement on the impact of the implementation of response measures. Policy-relevant parts of the discussion were presented at a side event jointly organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn on 16 November.

125. UNCTAD continued its partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation by contributing to the Circularity Gap Report issued by the Circle Economy, as well as to a circularity assessment of China, led by the Foundation with inputs from multiple organizations. UNCTAD also contributed to a circularity assessment of Brazil, through a memorandum of understanding with the University of Sao Paulo.

126. A side event on raising the ambition of climate action through circular economy strategies was held in Bonn on 15 November by UNCTAD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Development Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank, Circle Economy, Chatham House, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the Stanley Foundation and Shifting Paradigms. The event, which took place during the twenty-third Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, explored how climate policy, the architecture of the Paris Agreement and climate finance can tap the potential of circular economy concepts and be

aligned, while contributing to the economic development and low-carbon growth ambitions of developing countries.

127. A policy brief entitled "The Circular Economy: The New Normal?" was prepared to raise awareness of the circular economy's potential in unlocking economic opportunities, which enables environmentally sustainable and resource-efficient economic growth. The policy brief will be published in summer 2018.

128. In connection with the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO, UNCTAD, FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commonwealth organized an event on the fish trade, fisheries subsidies and Sustainable Goal 14 in Buenos Aires on 11 December. The event provided a platform for deeper understanding of the trade-related aspects of Goal 14, including regulatory issues, market access and fish management systems.

129. UNCTAD implemented Development Account project 1617I on trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security. Activities were implemented in the three beneficiary countries: Guatemala, Malawi and Vanuatu. In Guatemala, the stakeholders selected the cocoa, potato and cardamom sectors, and 12 technical background documents were completed and verified. In Vanuatu, the technical background research was finalized, which involved data gathering from national sources and analysis. The sustainable income assessment study on the cocoa and coconut sectors was reviewed and validated and is expected to be published in summer 2018. The website was updated to improve access and content, and three extranets were revamped to make them more user friendly.

130. UNCTAD continued to raise awareness of the linkages between trade, climate change and sustainable development. A presentation on its work on sustainability efforts and initiatives was given to the students of the Graduate School of Les Roches, Crans-Montana, Switzerland on 9 March. A briefing on climate change issues was also given to the students of Northeastern University (Boston, United States) in Geneva on 19 June.

131. The BioTrade Initiative of UNCTAD continued to assist developing countries in strengthening the institutional capacity of national BioTrade programmes to support BioTrade and biodiversity-based initiatives. UNCTAD continued its close collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in fostering sustainable and regulated trade of Convention-listed endangered species under appendix II. A side event on traceability for sustainable trade was organized in connection with the sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention. In identifying barriers limiting the trade of biodiversity-based products in the personal care, food and phytopharma sectors exported from Colombia, Peru and Viet Nam to the European Union, Japan, Switzerland and the United States, technical factsheets on non-tariff measures were prepared. In ensuring the BioTrade-friendly implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a handbook for BioTrade and policymakers and regulators dealing with access and benefit sharing entitled "*From Concept to Practice*" was published.

A11 Investment promotion and facilitation

Table A11
Investment promotion and facilitation

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/1BN	Capacity-building in investment promotion	2001–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FBI	Investment promotion partnerships for the development, marketing and facilitation of bankable Sustainable Development Goal projects	2017–	Netherlands
ROA-2966 (R9)	Strengthening the capacities of developing country policymakers and investment promotion officials in priority sectors to	2016–	Development Account

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	attract investment for sustainable and inclusive development		

132. Development context. With the globalization of economic activities, more and more developing countries are seeking FDI. This has resulted in proactive policies by these countries to attract and retain foreign investment, including investment in Sustainable Development Goal sectors, in order to generate inclusive and sustainable economic growth and build resilient infrastructure while safeguarding the environment.

133. Objectives and features. UNCTAD work on investment promotion and facilitation aims to assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity to create and manage the policy and institutional framework for attracting and retaining foreign investment and in developing an operating climate in which international business can thrive and contribute to sustainable development. The investment promotion programme provides tailor-made training, advisory and networking services, and prepares publications related to investment policies, legislation and regulations, institutional arrangements and good governance to attract and retain sustainable FDI, investment promotion strategies, and investment facilitation and aftercare practices. Special attention is being paid to strengthening investment promotion programmes in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

134. Outputs. In 2017, the main outputs of the programme were as detailed below.

Publications, training material and newsflashes

(a) "Promoting investment in urban development", a discussion paper prepared jointly by UN-Habitat and UNCTAD (March). The paper includes reflections from the session on promoting investment in urban development held at the UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2016 in Kenya;

(b) Investment Promotion Observer No. 5: Investment Facilitation – The Perfect Match for Investment Promotion (June). The note underlines the growing importance of investment facilitation in attracting and retaining investment, particularly in Sustainable Development Goal-related projects, as well as the importance of partnerships for improving a location's offer. The note includes best practice case studies from Germany, Jamaica and Kenya;

(c) In response to the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination recommended that relevant United Nations entities act on investment promotion in favour of the least developed countries. As a follow-up, UNCTAD agreed to undertake several activities, including the preparation of an annual investment monitor with analysis and updates on investment trends, opportunities and challenges in those countries. In October 2017, UNCTAD published the first such monitor entitled "Overview of FDI in the Least Developed Countries: Trends and Issues";

(d) A practical brochure for investment promotion agency officials entitled "Mobilizing investment for the Sustainable Development Goals: A strategic approach" (October). The brochure is being used and distributed in capacity-building events, as well as international meetings on investment and development;

(e) News flashes of the Smart Promotion Network were published monthly. The newsflashes, which reach 2,200 investment promotion stakeholders, included the latest data on FDI trends, investment promotion strategies and practices, upcoming events, and publications of interest to investment promotion professionals and policymakers;

(f) The greenFDI.org platform for investment promotion agency professionals, policymakers and other investment stakeholders. The website seeks to meet the learning and networking needs expressed by investment promotion agencies worldwide in promoting green and other sustainable investment. It features a resource centre with

publications related to green investment, a newly updated network of investment promotion agency contacts and information on UNCTAD activities, including workshops and seminars with training material on the promotion of investment in sustainable development.

Workshops and training

135. From 29 to 30 May, a regional seminar on the promotion of bankable Sustainable Development Goal projects for Africa was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. UNCTAD, in partnership with Invest SA and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, organized this seminar on the promotion of such projects. The seminar gave participants an overview of FDI trends and the Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goal model project proposals and strategies to market them, international partners for promoting investment in the Goals and the facilitation of outward investment. Presentations were made on bankable Sustainable Development Goal projects with case studies from Kenya, Mauritius and South Africa. Over 50 representatives from national and subnational investment promotion agencies from 14 African countries, four outward investment agencies and institutions, one investment promotion agency association and three private sector organizations participated in the event. Nearly half of the participants were women.

136. From 21–22 March 2017, UNCTAD presented training modules on the promotion of FDI in Sustainable Development Goal sectors and on investor aftercare at a workshop for investment promotion agency officials organized by the International Labour Organization and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies in Turin, Italy. The workshop had 25 participants, including 11 women, from 19 countries.

137. To focus attention on investment promotion in the least developed countries as called for in the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and UNCTAD jointly organized on 21 September a dialogue on investment promotion priorities in the least developed countries. The meeting took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States, and was attended by 43 high-level policymakers and investment promotion officials, including 9 women, from 40 least developed countries, as well as representatives from the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services and WTO.

138. During the International Investment Forum at the China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen, China, a workshop was organized on 18 September to launch the Chinese version of the *World Investment Report 2017* and present the latest developments in international investment and related policies to key investment stakeholders. Around 100 people participated, including 35 women.

139. On 7 and 8 November, UNCTAD organized in partnership with ProMexico and Bancomext a regional seminar on the promotion of bankable Sustainable Development Goal projects for Latin America and the Caribbean. Held in Mexico City, the seminar covered topics ranging from the latest FDI trends, financing needs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the role of investment promotion agencies in promoting such projects, as well as strategies of the Government of Mexico to encourage investment in the Goals, sector-specific models of bankable Sustainable Development Goal project proposals and related case studies from Belize, Costa Rica and Ecuador. Over 50 representatives from national and subnational investment promotion agencies from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries, four outward investment agencies, two investment promotion agency associations and four private sector organizations participated in the event. Nearly half of the participants were women.

Advisory services

140. In 2017, a model investment project proposal template for Sustainable Development Goal projects was developed in consultation with investment promotion agencies and outward investment agencies. The template is used for advisory services and training for investment promotion agencies from developing countries on the preparation of pipelines of bankable Sustainable Development Goal projects.

141. Technical support was provided to the BRICS Investment Working Group Meetings held from 23 to 25 May in Beijing, and from 30 to 31 September in Shanghai, China, in the preparation of the outlines for a BRICS action plan on investment facilitation and capacity-building. The plan of action was endorsed by the BRICS Summit 2017 as a key outcome document of the Summit.

142. A survey of investment promotion agencies and outward investment agencies was carried out from July to August in the context of the 2017 United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at recognizing and disseminating best practices in promoting and facilitating FDI in the Sustainable Development Goals.

143. On 20 November, a ceremony was organized in Geneva to award investment promotion agencies from Ethiopia and Mauritius, as well as an outward investment agency from Spain, for promoting investment in the Sustainable Development Goals. The agencies' best practices are being disseminated through the press, the greenFDI.org platform, the Smart Promotion Network and technical assistance programme of UNCTAD.

International meetings and networking events

144. From 9 to 10 January, UNCTAD participated in an nquiry meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme in Singapore on green finance for countries of the Group of 20 and developing countries. UNCTAD made presentations on green FDI trends and its technical assistance programme that helps developing countries attract green FDI. Forty high-level government officials, business executives and United Nations experts from 20 countries participated.

145. On 7 December, UNCTAD presented a key note address on attracting FDI into Sustainable Development Goal sectors at the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Around 30 heads and senior executives of the Association's member agencies from 23 countries and territories and other investment stakeholders participated.

146. Impact and results. In various capacity-building activities in 2017, UNCTAD trained over 260 investment promotion agency officials and other investment promotion stakeholders, 40 per cent of which were women.

147. Investment promotion agencies from developing countries were sensitized about the potential role of FDI in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as about policies, instruments and practices that can help attract investment in Sustainable Development Goal projects. Officials from over 50 such agencies participated in related training on targeting investment for sustainable development.

148. Partnerships were further strengthened with the national investment promotion agencies of South Africa, Invest SA, and of Mexico, ProMexico, that both hosted UNCTAD regional seminars, as well as with outward investment agencies, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Bancomext, that sponsored these seminars and provided important substantive support to capacity-building activities.

149. Partnerships with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies intensified, with close cooperation on the promotion of investment in the Sustainable Development Goals. This included joint efforts to maximize the participation of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and developing country members of the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies in UNCTAD capacity-building activities on Sustainable Development Goal investment. It also involved contributions by the

associations to UNCTAD seminars on the promotion of bankable Sustainable Development Goal projects and the UNCTAD presentation at the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies on the potential role and promotion of FDI in Sustainable Development Goal sectors.

150. Smart Promotion Network newsflashes are sent monthly to 2,200 investment promotion stakeholders, including 400 from Africa, 200 from the least developed countries and over 100 from landlocked developing countries. In 2017, an average of 349 people read the newsflash each month.

151. During the year, the greenFDI.org platform had nearly 2,100 sessions from visitors of 119 countries and territories, including 27 African countries, 15 least developed countries, 15 landlocked developing countries and 8 small island developing States.

A99 Other

Table A99
Other

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	Over numerous divisions		
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity-building in investment for development (Benin)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity-building in investment for development (Bangladesh)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity-building in investment for development (Kenya)	2015–	Netherlands
ROA-2907 (N8)	Building national capacities for promoting foreign direct investment in green and other growth sectors	2013–2016–	Development Account
URT/0T/BBM	"Delivering as one" (United Republic of Tanzania)	2011–	"One United Nations"
URT/0T/DAK	United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster "Delivering as one" joint programme on market value chains (United Republic of Tanzania)	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
Division on Investment and Enterprise	*Investment policies*		
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report, 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN
Division on International Trade and Commodities	*Capacity-building in trade negotiations*		
INT/9X/00M	Support to the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries	2000–	Multi-donors
ROA-2939 (AR8)	Strengthening capacities of African countries in boosting intra-African trade	2014–2017	Development Account
INT/0T/9BG	General trust fund on services, development and trade	2009–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/GAD	Capacity-building of least developed countries in services trade for sustainable	2017–	Multi-donors

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	development		
Division on International Trade and Commodities	*Trade, environment and development*		
LAO/0T/DBN	Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity, phase II (Lao People's Democratic Republic)	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
ROA-1617 (AI10)	Fostering the development of green exports through voluntary sustainability standards in Asia and the Pacific	2016–	Development Account
Division on Globalization and Development Strategies	*Globalization and development strategies*		
ROA-1617 (L10)	Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa	2016–	Development Account
ROA-2911 (P8)	Strengthening pro-growth macroeconomic management capacities for enhanced regional financial and monetary cooperation among selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa	2014–	Development Account
Division on Technology and Logistics	*Science, technology and innovation*		
INT/0T/7CB	Special trust fund for activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to World Summit on the Information Society follow-up	2007–	Switzerland
Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes	*Productive capacities*		
INT/0T/DAC	Identifying growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate investment in commodity value chains in landlocked countries	2014–	Common Fund for Commodities

1. Trade policy and trade preferences

Capacity-building on market access and trade preferences, including the Global System of Preferences and the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries

152. Development context. Following the WTO Hong Kong (China) Ministerial Decision in 2005 in which members agreed that developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so would grant duty-free and quota-free market access for exports of the least developed countries, improvements were made to various GSP schemes, and new schemes for such countries were launched. The provision and utilization of trade preferences is a key goal of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) adopted at the fourth United Nations Conference on

the Least Developed Countries in 2011, as further reaffirmed in Goal 17.12 ("Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with WTO decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access").

153. At the South–South level, UNCTAD provides technical support to GSTP participants. Following the successful conclusion of the Sao Paulo Round of the GSTP negotiations in December 2010, UNCTAD continued to support GSTP participants in their efforts towards the effective implementation of the Round and in follow-up discussions. UNCTAD assisted them in coordinating and backstopping their activities in various GSTP activities

154. Objectives. The objective of UNCTAD support for GSP and other preferential arrangements is to help developing countries – particularly the least developed countries – to increase utilization of GSP and other trade preferences. Such support includes raising awareness and enhancing understanding among exporters and government officials in beneficiary countries of the trading opportunities available under the schemes; strengthening understanding of technical and administrative regulations and laws governing preferential market access, particularly rules of origin; and disseminating relevant information for users of c and other preferential schemes.

155. The objective of UNCTAD support for GSTP is to increase trade among developing countries by facilitating market access negotiations and the operation of GSTP and benefiting from it, and to provide substantive and administrative support to GSTP participants for them to implement the results of the third round of negotiations.

156. Outputs.

(a) *Generalized System of Preferences and other trade preferences:* UNCTAD has continued to promote enhanced awareness among developing countries on ways to better utilize the preferences available under GSP and other preferential schemes through the periodic provision of information on a dedicated website, administrative support on certificates of origin, collection of data, publication of handbooks on GSP schemes and technical cooperation and capacity-building services. UNCTAD ensured the dissemination of relevant information by updating and revising GSP Handbooks of individual GSP and related schemes and preparing related studies. In 2017, the following publications were prepared: *GSP Handbook on the Scheme of Japan* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.42/Rev.5); *Handbook on India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.77) and *GSP Handbook on the Scheme of Turkey* (UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/Misc.74/Rev.1). It also continued compilation and updating of the UNCTAD GSP database based on the data submitted by GSP donor countries, which provide useful information on trade conducted under each preferential scheme.

(b) *Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries:* UNCTAD continued to provide substantive, technical and administrative support for the implementation of the GSTP Agreement, and the follow-up and implementation of the third round of GSTP negotiations. GSTP participants continued to strive to secure operationalization of the results of the Sao Paulo Round. Substantive assistance was provided to GSTP participants, particularly to signatories to the Sao Paulo Protocol, on technical and operational matters.

157. Results and impacts. UNCTAD support in this area has contributed to building the knowledge base and to wider dissemination of GSP-related information, including through the preparation of GSP handbooks, and collection and analysis of GSP trade data, as well as improved understanding and awareness of GSP among exporters and government officials in some individual beneficiary countries. UNCTAD contributed to making least developed country preferences more effective, so that they better contribute to the Istanbul Programme of Action, and further towards the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD support provided to GSTP participants has ensured the smooth functioning of the Agreement, and effective follow-up of the Sao Paulo Round results towards its effective implementation by the signatories. Effective implementation of the results is expected to further expand and deepen South–South trade and cooperation.

Services for development and trade

158. Development context. Positively integrating developing countries – especially least developed countries and small economies – into the global services economy and increasing their participation in services production and trade is essential. Development of the services sector provides the backbone of an integrated and effective economy. The services sector, particularly infrastructure services, can help improve efficiency and competitiveness in all sectors of the economy, as services constitute essential inputs to other many products and services. The sector generates opportunities for greater income, productivity, employment, investment and trade, and also furthers the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the provision of essential services, including health, education, energy, transport and telecommunications. Diversification into the services sector is conducive to integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small, structurally weak and vulnerable States, into the global services economy. To generate the expected development benefits, services trade liberalization needs to be properly paced and in sequence with the establishment of effective regulatory and institutional frameworks. This poses important challenges for developing countries, including the establishment of national services policies to build up productive capacity in services and the negotiation of services agreements at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. Maximizing the positive and pro-development contributions of the services sector requires sound regulation and institutions capable of promoting domestic supply capacity.

159. Objectives. The comprehensive work of UNCTAD on services development and trade assists developing countries and their economic integration groupings in developing their services sectors and increasing their participation in services trade with a view to realizing development benefits. Its work on regulations and institutions in infrastructure services was particularly timely and relevant in view of the need to strengthen infrastructure services to increase competitiveness and to contribute to sustainable development and access by the poor to essential services. UNCTAD activities assist countries and regional integration groupings in enhancing expertise and human, regulatory and institutional capacities to elaborate and implement national services regulatory frameworks, services sectoral assessments and preparations for regional negotiations with a view to developing a regional framework on services trade; participating in negotiations of the General Agreement on Trade in Services; and responding to the challenges associated with parallel negotiations between the multilateral track and regional tracks.

160. Outputs. Apart from services policy reviews, the comprehensive work of UNCTAD on services includes group training (in Geneva and in capitals); advisory services on legal, economic and policy issues; support for stakeholder consultations; and support for services negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels. Synergies were created with ongoing analytical and intergovernmental work, especially through the fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development (18–20 May 2016), which focused on the regulatory and institutional dimension. The follow-up of meetings and deliberations of the WTO services council and bodies has also been synergetic with work in support of services-related objectives of developing countries.

161. The objective of the fifth session of MYEM on Services, Development and Trade (18–20 July 2017) was to provide enhanced understanding on the potential of the services economy and trade, particularly infrastructure services. The meeting deliberated on the possible elements of a road map and policy recommendations for enhancing the contribution of services to structural transformation through, among others, a whole-of-government approach, to ensure coherence. Discussions underscored the importance of redirecting priority policy and regulatory attention to services, and of changing mindsets to achieve a whole-of-supply-chain approach, thereby avoiding policymaking in isolation, while recognizing the heterogeneity of services sectors. It was important to pursue a balanced growth strategy to capitalize on the catalytic role of services, and fit-for-purpose policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks were needed to balance growth strategies, build on partnerships and pursue skills and value upgrading. Finally, discussions highlighted the need for greater stakeholder involvement and ownership in building an

enabling environment for financial and social inclusion for development, and the importance of trade in services data and South–South cooperation.

162. The services sector forms the dominant segment of the global economy, trade, value added and employment. UNCTAD pioneered the conceptualization, policy analysis and intergovernmental deliberation on services economy and trade. This work, pursued in three pillars, is all the more relevant today, as the achievement of many goals and targets under the Sustainable Development Goals requires well-functioning infrastructure and basic services, and universal access to them, and such prevalence of services in the Sustainable Development Goals renders the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development essentially a services agenda. UNCTAD issued two publications in this regard: *Access to Financial Services and Digital Economy for Sustainable Development* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2017/4) and *Services and Structural Transformation for Development* (UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2017/2). These publications explored various options to address the issues of access to financial services; universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services; and quality and resilient transport infrastructure, as well as services associated with information, communications and technology.

163. Customized support for multilateral and regional trade-in-services negotiations such as specialized training and advisory services, was provided to policymakers and negotiators in developing countries and country groupings, particularly the least developed countries, African countries, and small and vulnerable economies. Such assistance supported countries and the regional groupings concerned in pursuing their trade negotiating objectives in multilateral and regional services negotiations. UNCTAD assistance included the preparation of technical background material and the provision of technical advice and analysis. Topics addressed included national and regional strategies for services negotiations at the multilateral and regional levels, while enhancing positive coherence between regional services negotiations and negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

164. Throughout 2017, UNCTAD provided demand-based assistance to African countries in preparing for the CFTA services negotiations aimed at strengthening the expertise and capacity of policymakers and trade negotiators with respect to services policy issues and negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels. UNCTAD contributed to the second meeting of the CFTA Technical Working Group on Trade in Services (Nairobi, 30 April–4 May).

165. Advisory missions were conducted to assist countries with the elaboration of a national strategy for services negotiations at the multilateral and regional levels. These include the following:

(a) Islamic Development Bank Seminar on Trade in Services: Potential gains and challenges to promote regional economic integration in the Middle East and North Africa region (Casablanca, Morocco, 22–24 March);

(b) Seventh annual national meeting organized by the China Association of Trade in Services (Foshan, China, 11–14 November);

(c) Workshop on digital financial services and financial inclusion (Washington, D.C., 18 and 19 April);

(d) Workshop on e-payment and financial inclusion (Geneva, 15 March);

(e) Seventh meeting of the CFTA task force (including services negotiations) (Nairobi, 9–11 January);

(f) Training on Trade in Services for the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 23–28 October).

166. UNCTAD provided support to the least developed countries in the implementation of the preferential treatment in favour of services and service suppliers of the least developed countries and their participation in the services trade. Training provided under Paragraph 166 courses, and the Virtual Institute also included services components.

167. UNCTAD collaborates with the Global Migration Group, international organizations and member States on migration issues, including participation in major inter-agency initiatives in the field with a particular focus on mainstreaming migration into development. It has contributed to international policy deliberations, including under the Global Migration Group, the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank and WTO. UNCTAD took part in the tenth Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit Meeting on the theme "Towards a global social contract on migration and development" (Berlin, 28–30 June) and the Global Migration Group principal-level meeting (Geneva, 25 April). UNCTAD has contributed to discussions of the trade and development aspects of migration, including on the understanding of measures needed for remittances and further aid for migrants. In the context of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, UNCTAD collaborated with other United Nations agencies to improve the policy and operational responses of the United Nations system and the international community to international migration.

168. Results and impacts. The comprehensive and innovative work of UNCTAD on services supported developing countries' efforts to develop the services sectors and take measures to strengthen their contribution to inclusive development, achieve economic diversification and create employment. There is close synergy between the three pillars of the work in its services programme. UNCTAD support for trade policymakers and trade negotiators in continuing to articulate their interests in negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services has helped them to maintain the development focus in the detailed negotiations. As participation in multiple negotiations is a major challenge, UNCTAD support has helped countries and regional integration groupings to ensure greater coherence in priorities pursued multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally. Sharing experiences and lessons learned is a special feature of UNCTAD support. The developmental benefits of international migration and related remittances have received added emphasis from UNCTAD in the light of its growing impact on development prospects. The outcome of the fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development has been widely disseminated and shared through international and national conferences. The Chair of the fifth session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting noted that "this discussion has the Sustainable Development Goals front and centre, as many of the goals are services oriented" and that "this specific approach to trade, services and development that UNCTAD is providing is part of the critical path to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030". The dissemination of findings of these meetings and analyses by UNCTAD has helped countries consider steps towards strengthening their regulatory and institutional mechanisms in support of infrastructure services so that they can have a stronger positive impact on sustainable development.

2. Voluntary sustainability standards

169. Development context. With global demand for nature-based, healthy, eco-friendly and socially correct products on the rise among consumers, major retailors increasingly opt for products that claim to be sustainable. One way a product can claim to be sustainable is by carrying eco-labels that confirm that products meet voluntary sustainability standards. Such norms and standards aim to ensure that a product in question is produced, processed or transported in accordance with certain sustainability qualities, such as minimal or zero environmental impacts. Around 500 voluntary sustainability standards exist today for key exports of many developing countries, such as coffee, tea, bananas, cocoa, palm oil, timber, cotton and organic agri-foods. These norms and standards are developed by bodies such as Fairtrade International, the Marine Stewardship Council and the Rainforest Alliance.

170. Objectives and features of the programme. UNCTAD provides a forum for intergovernmental discussion and consensus-building on the impact of voluntary sustainability standards on market access and market entry conditions facing exports from developing countries. It facilitates collaboration among interested United Nations agencies on supporting developing countries in strengthening national capacities to address voluntary sustainability standards and in conducting analysis on the trade and development implications of such standards. It also supports developing countries in making use of such standards, including through capacity-building programmes, in

promoting trade in a manner that brings about economic, social and environmentally sustainable benefits.

171. Output. Below is a description of the output achieved in 2017:

(a) A Development Account project on fostering green exports through voluntary sustainability standards is being implemented in three developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region: the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Vanuatu. Fact-finding missions were conducted in Vanuatu and in the Lao People's Democratic Republic between February and April, delineating country-specific opportunities and challenges. The missions were followed up with start-up workshops in the two countries, which were organized between October and November. Country studies were launched on how stakeholders' concerns interact and what actions can be taken by whom to make voluntary sustainability standards instrumental in fostering the country's sustainable green exports. Between May and September, an assessment toolkit was designed to be used in the upcoming country-specific studies. The toolkit helps to identify the main concerns of different stakeholders on the potential impact of voluntary sustainability standards on export competitiveness and on social and/or environmental sustainability in the country.

(b) Within the framework of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards, supported by UNCTAD and including the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and FAO, two national multi-stakeholder voluntary sustainability standards platforms were launched in Brazil (Brasilia, 31 May) and China (Qingdao, 27 June). The national platforms strengthen informed policy dialogue on how to proactively use and maximize the sustainable development benefits and market access opportunities by using such standards. The platform of Brazil is hosted by the National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO). The National Platform on Voluntary Sustainability Standards of China is supported by the China Association for Standardization, the Standardization Administration of China and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. The establishment of national platforms on such standards reflects the increasingly proactive stance by Government, business and non-government actors to put such standards into a governmental framework to harness the development opportunities of voluntary sustainability standards and to better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

(c) With UNCTAD support, the national platform of India on private standards carried out a study on the ecosystem of private and voluntary sustainability standards in India entitled "The India Story: Impact of Private Sustainability Standards on Market Access and Sustainable Development" (UNCTAD/SER.RP/2017/9). UNCTAD also participated in and contributed to discussions with stakeholders on private sustainability standards at the twelfth Quality Conclave of India, organized by the Quality Council of India, in New Delhi on 21 and 22 September.

(d) During the Non-tariff Measures Week organized by UNCTAD in Geneva from 25–27 September, international agencies, national stakeholders and collaborative agencies involved in voluntary sustainability standards came together and discussed the impact of voluntary sustainability standards on trade, their utility as a development facilitating tool, the contribution of national voluntary sustainability standards platforms and the contribution of the interagency platform of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (see http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-Analysis/Non-Tariff-Measures/NTMs-2017.aspx).

172. Results. With regard to the greening of exports through voluntary sustainability standards, support to least developed countries Vanuatu and the Lao People's Democratic Republic revealed that such standards are not yet popular as a tool for export promotion. The institutional or infrastructural arrangement requirements for voluntary sustainability standards certification, such as laboratories, are missing and would need to be in place to benefit from such certification. Hence, a need to examine the development of a policy on voluntary sustainability standards should be accompanied with the development of the related institutional and infrastructural arrangements. With regard to partnerships on such

standards at the international level, collaboration under the framework of the Forum helped in enhancing global awareness and approaches to addressing them. At the national level, with the support of the collaborating agencies of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards, countries with national voluntary sustainability standards platforms have developed programmes to improve the utilization of such standards by their stakeholders. Further, other countries may also wish to consider developing similar national voluntary sustainability standards platforms to elaborate policy on and approaches to such standards, as well as increase awareness of this tool.

3. Investment trends and issues

3.1. Technical assistance on regional investment cooperation

173. Development context. An important pillar of UNCTAD activities is to support developments in member countries through analytical work and technical cooperation. In this regard, UNCTAD continued to extend technical assistance to ASEAN to prepare the *ASEAN Investment Report 2017: Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Zones in ASEAN*.

174. The annual *ASEAN Investment Report* series provides up-to-date analyses and data coverage pertaining to FDI and operations of multinational enterprises in the region. It also serves as a policy decision-making input and an analytical instrument for improving the competitiveness of ASEAN to attract FDI. The series aims to promote a better understanding of the relationship between regional integration and FDI, and vice versa.

175. Objectives and features. The objective of the series is to present analyses of the latest developments in FDI and the regional investment environment in an integrating ASEAN, including implementing an ASEAN investment work programme in relation to the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement. The report aims to provide analytical inputs for discussion by relevant ASEAN bodies of key investment issues and related policy. The report is part of ASEAN's efforts to promote transparency and investment opportunities in the region.

176. In the preparation of the *ASEAN Investment Report*, a series of consultative meetings between staff members of UNCTAD and the ASEAN secretariat were held to discuss the outline, key issues, messages, the research process and production of the report. A regional seminar on special economic zones in ASEAN was organized by UNCTAD and the ASEAN Secretariat in Bangkok on 1 and 2 June. The seminar brought together some 40 participants, which included policymakers, international and regional experts, and private sector representatives.

177. Outputs. The *ASEAN Investment Report 2017* was published in October. The report was launched and presented on 13 November at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Pasay City, the Philippines. The report and associated research activities helped generated significant regional statistics of economic zones in ASEAN, which were presented for the first time. It was also prepared as an ASEAN@50 Special Edition in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of ASEAN.

178. Results. The report was well received by stakeholders. The contents of the report were used by ASEAN bodies and in ASEAN discussion on issues pertaining to FDI and economic zones in the region. The report was also distributed at various official ASEAN and private sector meetings, including dissemination through the websites of the ASEAN Secretariat and of UNCTAD. The support of UNCTAD in the analytical research and preparation of the report was acknowledged by ASEAN. The *ASEAN Investment Report 2017* provided "useful insights on critical emerging issues which are relevant to strengthen ASEAN's competitiveness in attracting FDI". The regional seminar, organized as part of the publication process, also contributed to capacity-building and sharing of experiences among the economic zone authorities in the region.

3.2. World Investment Report series

179. Development context. As the focal point in the United Nations system for investment and technology, UNCTAD promotes understanding of key issues, particularly

on FDI-related matters, and assists developing countries in attracting and benefiting from FDI and building their productive capacities and international competitiveness. The *World Investment Report* series provide up-to-date and comprehensive data on issues pertaining to FDI and multinational enterprises and analysis of trends and developments in FDI. The series examines the implications of activities by such enterprises related to these trends, and assesses both international and national policy issues of relevance to developing countries. It serves as a policy decision-making input and an analytical instrument for improving national capacities to attract and benefit from FDI, and as a capacity-building tool.

180. Objectives and features. The *Word Investment Report* series is a key instrument in helping policymakers improve their understanding of emerging FDI-related issues and policy implications for development and, as a result, enhances their ability to formulate FDI policies that will contribute to development objectives. The series is therefore an essential tool for the formulation of FDI policies, which feeds into the technical assistance work of UNCTAD. The preparation involves the following interrelated activities:

(a) Policy analysis and research. An extensive peer review of the outline of the *World Investment Report*, drafts and final text. The preparation of each chapter and section involves dialogue with relevant stakeholders to ascertain facts and determine trends, including with experts – especially those from developing countries – on the topics analysed;

(b) Capacity-building workshops and seminars. These enable policymakers, researchers and other experts from developing countries to directly share their experience, knowledge and information for each *World Investment Report*. As such, these activities constitute a key element of the peer review process;

(c) Dissemination of the report's findings and results. Dissemination begins with the organization of press conferences in national venues and increasingly through webinars on the launch date of the report, followed by seminars or workshops for policymakers in developing countries. These workshops allow stakeholders from developing countries to discuss the results of the research and policy analysis, including the ways and means of using them in concrete policymaking and implementation;

(d) Dedicated expert networks. In order to maintain consistent quality of the report, dedicated networks of experts are maintained and supported through a range of activities, including seminars and conferences.

181. Outputs. The *World Investment Report 2017* proposed investment policies that strengthen digital development strategies by investigating the effect that digital technology is having on global investment patterns and development impact of the top 100 digital multinational companies. Based on the most up-to-date data collected, the report also presented global and regional investment trends and prospects and investment policy trends. It was released in June and was launched globally through four web press conferences in English, French and Spanish, as well as nationally through presentations via video and Internet telephone connections to selected locations. To facilitate global media coverage, nine sets of press releases were prepared and translated into official United Nations languages and other languages.

182. Results. The *World Investment Report 2017* was presented at the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board in September. Since its release up to December, all or part of its contents and supplementary data and information sheets had been downloaded more than 221,000 times. The substance of the report was covered in nearly 1,800 press articles in 95 countries, with authoritative news publications, such as the *Financial Times* and the *New York Times*, producing articles about the substantive chapter on company ownership structures.

3.3. Capacity-building in statistics on foreign direct investment

183. Development context. Scarcity, unreliability and inconsistency in existing data reporting systems limits the capacities of Governments to formulate policies and strategies towards FDI. There is also a shortage of reliable quantitative studies on the impact of FDI on development and its relationship with sustainable economic development, especially in areas such as the transfer of technology, human resource development and export

performance. In response to recommendations made by the Expert Meeting on Capacity-building in the area of FDI: Data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries (December 2005) and endorsed by the tenth session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (Geneva, 6–10 March 2006), UNCTAD continues to provide technical cooperation to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the area of FDI statistics. In addition, at the fifty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board in September 2012, the Group of 77 and China strongly recommended that UNCTAD collect data on activities of multinational enterprises in the least developed countries: "…if there is none, we request UNCTAD to provide guidance or technical assistance to those countries to collect these essential data".

184. Objectives and features. The overall objective of the programme is to assist Governments of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to increase FDI inflows contributing to sustainable development by formulating FDI policies based on quality data and information of multinational enterprises operating in the region or the country. Specifically, this project aims to enhance the capacity of government agencies in these countries to compile, disseminate and analyse data on FDI and the activities of multinational enterprises by implementing internationally recommended methodological standards and enabling national authorities to maintain high-quality, up-to-date databases. It also intends to strengthen networking among national authorities involved in FDI data compilation and reporting and in FDI policy formulation and investment promotion activities, so as to facilitate the exchange of experience.

185. Outputs. Technical assistance focused on the preparation of investment reports in selected regions and countries such as ASEAN and the Central European Free Trade Agreement on the basis of data collected as part of statistical capacity-building projects carried out by UNCTAD. The *ASEAN Investment Report 2017* and the *Central European Free Trade Agreement Investment Report 2017* were published. UNCTAD continues working with the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf and the MENA Centre for Investment to improve the Council-coordinated foreign investment survey for all countries of the Council.

186. UNCTAD continued to participate in the Working Group on International Investment Statistics of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Balance of Payments Committee of the International Monetary Fund and the Eurostat–European Central Bank Task Force on Foreign Direct Investment to discuss the latest methodological standards on FDI statistics, reflecting the views and concerns of developing economies that are not members of these working groups.

3.4. Principles for responsible agricultural investment that respects rights, livelihoods and resources

187. Development context. There is an increasing interest in investment in agriculture in developing countries, by both foreign and local investors. After decades of efforts to attract corporate investment, including FDI, into their agricultural sectors, developing countries are now faced with significant challenges in terms of how to accept the type, size and number of such investments in order to maximize development benefits, while minimizing socioeconomic and environmental risks. To ensure net positive outcomes for host countries, actions are required by Governments, corporate investors in agriculture and other stakeholders affected by the investments, especially local communities.

188. Objectives and features. UNCTAD, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank (Inter-Agency Working Group) proposed and put into play in 2010 a set of principles for responsible agricultural investment that respects rights, livelihoods and resources. The Working Group has since implemented a twin-track approach, which comprises research related to the principles (first track) to establish a solid base of evidence on the impacts of investment, and to use the lessons learned as a basis for refining them, informing various consultation processes (second track), including through the Committee on Food Security, and – most importantly – using the evidence to provide technical assistance to host country Governments, investors and communities.

189. Outputs. A major part of the research of the Working Group is an ongoing series of projects by UNCTAD and the World Bank, empirically testing and using the principles with investors and communities. The work undertaken in 2017 focused on the third phase of the programme, the pilot use of the principles in new agricultural projects, and the development of dissemination materials and channels. UNCTAD and World Bank have produced a set of 24 Knowledge into Action Notes that provide technical guidance on specific issues for use by Governments, investors and other stakeholders in the implementation and operationalization of the principles. These were published in March 2018 and launched at the World Land and Poverty Conference.

190. The Knowledge Into Action Notes were tested with practitioners at three workshops in 2017. In Accra, a workshop was held in May with the Government, the private sector and civil society to discuss the applicability of the notes in the Ghanaian context. In Johannesburg, South Africa a workshop was held in July with private sector investors from southern and eastern Africa to discuss the use of the notes by investors. In Lilongwe, a similar workshop in September focused on the development of a screening guide for agricultural investments in collaboration with the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre. The programme's findings were disseminated and discussed during the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington, D.C. (March).

191. Results. Technical assistance is provided to policymakers, investors and communities during the fieldwork process. As a result of national workshops provided to policymakers, the programme received and has implemented a follow-up request for capacity-building in investment screening in Malawi. On the basis of empirical field testing and stakeholder feedback, UNCTAD and the World Bank prepared a series of knowledge notes aimed at providing practical, applicable guidance to agribusiness investors and host country Governments on specific topics related to the operationalization of responsible investment principles.

4. Macroeconomic and development policies

4.1. Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa

192. Development context. In recent years, developing countries have again been looking at how they can use development policies more effectively, in some cases to diversify away from commodity dependence or to make more effective use of abundant labour resources, in order to kick-start the process of sustained economic growth from very low levels of income, to break out of a middle-income trap or (in a few cases) to push on towards the technological frontier. In Southern Africa, the country that has been using development policies more effectively has undoubtedly been South Africa, where the automotive and clothing and textile sectors were strategically supported to facilitate a progressive diversification away from mining and energy. Other economies of the region have not been equally successful, however, and are still struggling to find the right policy mix able to unleash sustained economic growth. These experiences have added a deeper appreciation of the complexities involved and the challenges faced by policymakers across the developing world. There is, therefore, a growing demand to take stock of and share current experiences, and to improve the understanding of approaches that have been successful in promoting structural transformation in different countries.

193. The 2000s also saw a strengthening of South–South economic ties, underpinned by a transformation in the composition of southern exports from primary commodities to manufactures. The regional dimension of these ties is of particular importance. Most of South–South FDI, for example, has been going to Asia (62 per cent of the total in 2011). Most of these flows originate in Asia, and are invested to support the expansion of the regional production networks, mainly across East and Southeast Asia. Compared with Asia and other developing regions, South African economies as yet are only weakly integrated through trade and capital flows. This relative backwardness along with the existence of a potential production and growth pole (South Africa) indicates the existence of attractive possibilities to strengthen regional integration and pool resources for advancing structural transformation and increasing competitiveness on the global markets.

194. Objectives and features. This project aims at facilitating the economic cooperation and integration among the four developing economies in Southern Africa – Mauritius, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and around the potential regional economic growth pole (South Africa). In particular it aims to identify regional value chains and foster industrial policy coordination in the region. The project will also build the capacity of selected developing countries in formulating policies for the progressive diversification of the production and export structure of the economy by using UNCTAD research methodologies and tools.

195. To achieve these objectives, a series of studies were commissioned to analyse the economic structure of the region and identify opportunities for fruitful cooperation. The results and the main policy implications stemming from these studies were discussed in two regional workshops designed to strengthen policy cooperation among the Governments of the target countries and support the establishment of a regular dialogue between the public and private sectors at the regional level.

196. In the final biennium, a series of national workshops will be organized in the target countries to enhance the comprehension of the dynamics behind the process of structural transformation and build local capacity to formulate policies to sustain industrial development and linking into the identified regional value chains.

197. Output (description of activities). The project started its implementation in June 2016. The first months of the implementation of the project were devoted to the discussion of project strategy with the target countries and the main counterparts, and to the identification of consultants and background papers to be commissioned. In the context of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi (2016) a first kick-off meeting was organized with the representatives of the target countries. Other meetings were held with missions of the participating countries in Geneva, institutional partners (Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme) and the Department of Trade and Industry and the Industrial Development Corporation in South Africa.

198. A series of studies on promising regional value chains in the region was commissioned to regional consultants at the end of 2016. The results and the policy implications stemming from these studies were discussed in two regional workshops. The first one, jointly organized with the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa, took place in Pretoria in March 2017. At this event, the target countries endorsed the integration agenda proposed by UNCTAD. The second regional workshop, co-organized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the United Republic of Tanzania and held in Dar-es-Salaam in December, resulted in the adoption of an outcome document that endorses a series of specific policy measures needed to promote the development of agro-processing and mining machinery regional value chains in the region and build a common platform for energy sustainability.

199. Results. Although it is too early to measure the results of the project, UNCTAD activities are generating interest in the countries involved and raising awareness of the importance of strengthening regional ties and developing regional value chains in key sectors. This is reflected in the adoption of an outcome document by the participants in the second regional workshop held in Pretoria.

4.2. Strengthening pro-growth macroeconomic management capacities for enhanced regional financial and monetary cooperation among selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa

200. Development context. This project was a response to a request from UNCTAD member states for more information about regional financial and monetary integration and its potential to provide macroeconomic stability in an uncertain world, and to promote growth. South–South financial collaboration has been one of the most striking new trends of the last decade. Yet there were many gaps in understanding the mechanisms and how they worked. The project focused in particular on the role of regional currency and payment mechanisms, foreign reserve funds, infrastructure funds and development banks. Many

mechanisms were new, emerging in response to needs of developing countries following the economic crisis of 2008–2009 and the heightened ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals; others had been in existence for several decades.

201. The project was therefore highly relevant for development, both at regional and national levels. It was also fully in line with several United Nations conferences and summits and directly linked with the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals.

202. Objectives and features. The project aimed to strengthen institutional knowledge and build greater understanding about regional macroeconomic interdependence and the scope for regional monetary and financial cooperation among ministries of finance/economy and central banks, development banks and other actors. It also aimed to enhance capacity among senior officials of ministries of finance and economy and central banks on the question of policy management in the areas of macroeconomic strategies, public debt and finance for development. Finally, it aimed to benefit from UNCTAD experience in macroeconomic analysis and policy dialogue in work relating to the *Trade and Development Report*, and further contribute to the mandate of UNCTAD by coordinating actions towards increasing the understanding of the global economic environment and of policy choices, as well as promoting regional cooperation.

203. Outputs. 2017 saw the finalization of the last remaining activities relating to this project. The main activity was a regional seminar held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs. At this two-day event, experts from many different countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia met to discuss their experiences in regional financial and monetary integration. For some, they were hearing for the first time about some of the new and innovative mechanisms that had been emerging in the developing world, and how these might be useful for their countries. This related in particular to the new Southern-led development banks and investment funds and to the South–South reserve funds established in Latin America and Asia, without a parallel example in Africa. For others, it was a good opportunity to share their long-standing knowledge and expertise about South–South mechanisms for development banking, infrastructure funds and liquidity pooling. Collaborators at this event included, in addition to the South African Institute of International Affairs and UNCTAD, the African Development Bank, the Latin American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the East African Development Bank, the Global Economic Governance Unit of the University of Boston, the Latin American Reserve Fund, the Asian Macroeconomic Research Organization, Banco del Sur, Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement, Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, the West African Institute of Financial and Economic Management and the Economic Commission for Latin America.

204. Other activities through 2017 included the finalization of papers and publications relating to the project, and a professional evaluation of the project.

205. Results. The Development Account, an important contributor to improving understanding and knowledge about pro-growth macroeconomic policies, in particular the use of regional financial and monetary mechanisms, provided support for this project, thus enabling UNCTAD to carry out activities that would not have been possible otherwise. As with many knowledge-based activities, it is not easy to quantify concrete results. Nonetheless, it is encouraging to see survey evidence that the project's research, events and partnerships contributed to increased knowledge and understanding, whether by gathering and presenting new and original information on the use of macroeconomic policies and macroeconomic interdependence, or by enabling the sharing of experiences and creation of new collaborations and partnerships.

206. For some participants, there is no opportunity in their home countries or home institutions to discuss these issues. The project therefore helped bring a global perspective to what could otherwise have remained as discrete regional understandings. It brought together West African and Southern African policymakers and experts with their peers and counterparts in Latin America and Asia and many recognised that they were not familiar with the mechanisms being used in other regions and could benefit from sharing this

knowledge. There was also recognition that some of the new Southern-led mechanisms created key opportunities, but countries also needed to put in place the policies or institutions that would enable them to benefit from them. The publications have also been used as reference for studies and reports as a source of benchmarks and recommendations, in expert meetings and other venues.

207. Finally, the findings of the project and the collaborations that have been initiated can potentially continue into the future. Further editions of the *Trade and Development Report* will benefit from the information and understandings generated about, for example, finance for development, including infrastructure and other goals essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, there was enthusiasm to continue collaboration on the part of some institutions and individuals brought together through project activities.

5. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

5.1. Activities related to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with regard to follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society

208. Development context. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005), was the first major United Nations event that discussed the potential opportunities and developmental impacts posed by ICTs. The Summit established a vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. In 2015, this vision was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of implementation of WSIS outcomes. The years since the Summit have seen remarkable developments in ICTs and services and in their impact on economic and social development. There is wide agreement that a new wave of technological innovation is likely to bring about radical changes in economies and societies. Only those that invest in the infrastructure and capabilities required to benefit from these new technologies are likely to take advantage of their development opportunities. This underscores the importance of addressing the still significant digital divides that exist between and within countries, as well as between other group of the societies such as women and rural population. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the potential of ICTs to accelerate human progress, bridge the digital divide and develop knowledge.

209. Objectives and features. A trust fund was established in December 2007, aimed at supporting the work of the Commission in assisting the Council in the system-wide follow-up to the WSIS outcomes. The objective of the work of UNCTAD, as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, is to support the work of the Commission as mandated by the Council in its resolution 2006/46. The Council guides the work of the Commission in this area through its annual resolution on the assessment of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes. The resources of the trust fund support the elaboration of the annual reports on the implementation of such outcomes and the participation of experts and non-State stakeholders in the work of the Commission, and other related activities.

210. Outputs. The secretariat concentrated its efforts in two main areas: supporting the Commission in its mandate related to the follow-up of the implementation of WSIS outcomes; and supporting the Commission on the implementation of the request made by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its overall review of the implementation of WSIS (General Assembly resolution 70/125). In this resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Chair of the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda. The group will submit a report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-first session in 2018.

211. As part of its activities to support the follow-up to the implementation of WSIS outcomes, the secretariat invited inputs from United Nations entities and other stakeholders that act as facilitators of the implementation of the WSIS action lines, as well as from other relevant stakeholders. The secretariat received inputs from 33 United Nations entities and other international organizations and stakeholders. Based on this

information and other relevant sources, the secretariat drew up the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/73/66-E/2018/10). The report highlights major activities to implement WSIS outcomes undertaken by stakeholders in 2017. The secretariat also prepared a report (E/CN.16/2087/CRP.2) that includes additional substantive information on the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2017, which will integrate the documentation of the twenty-first annual session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

212. In response to the request of the General Assembly to establish a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, the Chair of the Commission established the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on 2 May 2016. In its resolution 2017/21, the Economic and Social Council noted the ongoing work of the Working Group. In its role as the secretariat of the Commission, the secretariat provides substantive support to the Working Group. The Working Group held five meetings from September 2016 to January 2018 (three meetings were held in 2017). During these meetings, the group discussed inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the General Assembly. In his report, the Chair of the Working Group noted that, although sometimes consensus seemed to emerge on some issues, significant divergence of views in a number of other issues persisted. In that context, the complexity and political sensitivity of the topic did not allow the Working Group to agree on a set of recommendations. The Chair's report was submitted to the Commission for consideration at its twenty-first session.

213. Results. In its resolution 2017/21, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the role of the Commission in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular, the review and assessment of progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes. The extension and reaffirmation of the mandate given to the Commission by the Council in its resolution 2006/46 demonstrates the recognition of the valuable work carried out by the Commission. This work has invaluably been strengthened thanks to the support of the Trust Fund.

II. Theme B: Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

214. Poor people or nations are more vulnerable to external shocks. Eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would require joint and persistent efforts to tackle the specific challenges faced by weak and vulnerable economies. To build their economic resilience, structurally weak economies need to develop sound strategies to diversify economies and build productive capacity. To combat climate change, it is important to develop climate-resilient transport infrastructure and identify best approaches to mitigate climate change while enhancing economic development prospects.

215. UNCTAD technical assistance addresses the specific demand from the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and post-conflict States to help them better tackle vulnerabilities and build resilience. In particular, UNCTAD improves the capacities of developing countries to effectively manage debt; supports commodity-dependent developing countries in their diversification efforts; promotes sustainable and resilient transport; and assists the least developed countries in trade policymaking, market access and achieving structural progress towards and beyond graduation.

216. In this section, six products under the theme "Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience" are reported. The reports highlighted main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2017 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to the aforementioned theme but not linked with any of the existing six products under this thematic area are reported under "B 99 Other".

B1 Support to graduation from least developed country status

Table B1
Support to graduation from least developed country status

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ROA-333H (AW9)	Supporting small island developing States in their efforts to build economic resilience	2016–	Development Account

217. Recent context. For decades, helping least developed countries bring to fruition the milestone of graduation from least developed country status has been an important goal of UNCTAD. Five countries (Botswana, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa) have already been reclassified, and 14 more are either confirmed graduation cases or least developed countries that are likely to be found eligible for reclassification by 2024. Achieving structural economic progress toward and beyond graduation from least developed country status is, broadly speaking, a vision of all these countries, a majority of which are geographically handicapped and constantly exposed to risks of external shocks beyond domestic control.

218. While helping the least developed countries create and maintain a momentum of structural economic transformation, UNCTAD aims to strengthen the capacity of least developed country policymakers make the change of country status an opportunity to re-examine their need for special treatment. In this vein, a key line of UNCTAD action has been to help relevant countries formulate a strategy for securing a smooth transition to post-least developed country life. The bulk of UNCTAD work in 2017 thus consisted of enabling six potential least developed country graduates to prepare for the March 2018 review of the United Nations list of least developed countries. The main task of UNCTAD in this area was the preparation of six country-specific vulnerability profiles and to use them to provide the Governments concerned with advisory services on the question of graduation.

219. Objectives and features. UNCTAD aims to help the most advanced least developed countries make the milestone of graduation from least developed country status an opportunity to develop a long-term vision for structural economic transformation, a pathway which sometimes implies a need for continued special treatment by development partners after graduation.

220. In addition to its general support for the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve structural economic transformation, UNCTAD provides specific advisory services to all countries that are faced with the challenge of graduation from least developed country status. It does so before an official decision by the United Nations to reclassify a country from the list of least developed countries has been taken and after such a decision has been taken (through a General Assembly resolution).

221. Outputs. In 2017, UNCTAD helped eight least developed countries understand the implications and anticipated consequences of graduation, and achieve a smooth transition to post-least developed country life: Bhutan, Kiribati, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. UNCTAD did so while bearing in mind that the United Nations Committee for Development Policy would take, for each individual country case, one of the following decisions:

(a) To recommend graduation from least developed country status, a recommendation the Economic and Social Council would then normally endorse;

(b) Not to recommend graduation from least developed country status, a decision that would require ample substantiation and justification (for example, Kiribati in the 2015 review of the list);

(c) To defer to the next triennial review of the list its consideration of the case.

222. The preparation of six vulnerability profiles by UNCTAD in 2017 (Bhutan, Kiribati, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste) revealed the following:

(a) One country would welcome graduation from least developed country status (Bhutan), albeit with a plan to seek a longer grace period, while another State would likely seek a deferment by the Committee of its consideration of the question of graduation, without objecting to the idea of eventual reclassification (Nepal);

(b) Two countries would reluctantly begin to get accustomed to the idea of graduation; they planned to cushion the shock of reclassification by seeking a longer pre-graduation grace period (Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands);

(c) Two more countries would resist the idea of being deprived of least developed country treatment, given their extreme vulnerabilities and the absence of special international support measures by virtue of small island developing State status.

223. Results. During the implementation of the project, the understanding of the graduation-related challenges and opportunities for selected least developed countries was enhanced. From its work in this area, UNCTAD drew three main lessons in 2017:

224. First, none of the six countries under review was prepared to go through the standard graduation process as prescribed by the United Nations since 2004 (General Assembly resolution 59/209), in four steps:

(a) A recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy in March to graduate the country;

(b) An endorsement in July by the Economic and Social Council of this recommendation;

(c) A further endorsement in December of the same recommendation;

(d) A three-year grace period before the actual exit.

225. Bhutan, Sao Tome and Principe, and Solomon Islands would seek longer grace periods, while Nepal and Timor-Leste would request a postponement of the Committee's consideration of their cases. Kiribati hinted that, should the Committee recommend its graduation, the country would seek support at the highest level of the United Nations for the recommendation not to be acted upon. The lesson for UNCTAD was the importance of inducing systemic progress through a complete reconsideration of the graduation process and methodology, toward greater differentiation in the treatment of countries with special needs.

226. A second lesson was that the time might have come for the United Nations to find a better way to help relevant countries secure a truly smooth transition to post-least developed country status, notably by making small island developing State status an operational, alternative avenue for special treatment.

227. A third lesson was the growing desirability of amending the graduation rule to enable the Committee to recognize the importance of treating highly vulnerable least developed countries in a special manner. UNCTAD takes the view that it should be made possible for the Committee, through a revised graduation rule that would involve a special graduation threshold under the economic vulnerability index, not to have to recommend the graduation of countries with exceptionally high vulnerabilities, even if these countries meet the other two graduation thresholds.

B2 DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

Table B2
DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/2AO	Strengthening the debt management capacity of developing countries	2002–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/FAH	Support to implementation of Debt Management Facility, phase II	2016–	World Bank

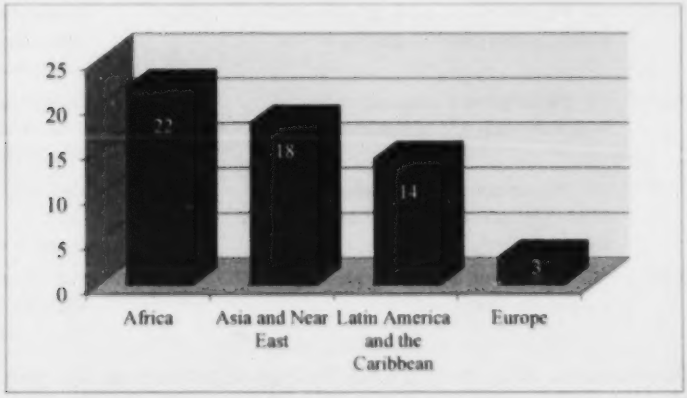
Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/FBD	Strengthening the debt management capacity of developing countries	2016–	World Bank
INT/0T/GAJ	Cooperation on the study of the portfolio analytics tool, review of the World Bank Treasury	2017–	World Bank
ALB/0T/DBF	Capacity-building for integrated debt management (Albania)	2015–	Switzerland
ANG/0T/EBG	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública (Angola)	2015–	Angola
ARG/0T/8BL	DMFAS project	2008–	Argentina
ARG/0T/DBJ	Strengthening public debt management in the province of La Rioja	2014–	Argentina
ARG/0T/FBA	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública de la provincia de Rio Negro	2017–	Argentina
CAF/0T/FAE	Renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette publique de la direction de la dette et des participations	2016–	African Development Bank
COS/0T/ECF	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública (Costa Rica)	2016–	Costa Rica
CVI/0T/EBN	"Delivering as one" (Cabo Verde)	2016–	One United Nations
ECU/0T/CAW	Adquisición, instalación y capacitación de SIGADE 6 (Ecuador)	2013–	Ecuador
ETH/0T/DAA	Strengthening integrated public debt management, phase I, DMFAS 6 installation (Ethiopia)	2014–	Ethiopia
GAB/0T/9AT	Renforcement des capacités d'études et modernisation des outils informatiques de gestion de la dette (Gabon)	2012–	Gabon
GBS/0T/FBH	Fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de la deuda pública (Guinea-Bissau)	2017–	World Bank
GEO/0T/BAR	Strengthening public debt management (Georgia)	2012–	Georgia
HON/0T/BAU	Strengthening public debt management (Honduras)	2012–	United Nations Development Programme
INS/0T/ABB	Strengthening public debt management (Indonesa)	2011–	Switzerland
INS/0T/EBB	Strengthening external debt reporting	2016–	Bank of Indonesia
IRQ/0T/BCI	Implementation of DMFAS 6 (Iraq)	2013–	Iraq
IVC/0T/BCF	Projet de modernisation des outils informatiques et de renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette SYGADE 6 (Côte d'Ivoire)	2013–	Côte d'Ivoire
JOR/0T/DAM	Strengthening debt management (Jordan)	2014–	Jordan
MOL/0T/EAF	Implementation of DMFAS 6 (Republic of Moldova)	2016–	Republic of Moldova
NIC/0T/BAG	Strengthening public debt management	2013–	Nicaragua
PHI/0T/ABK	Strengthening debt management in the Bureau	2011–	Philippines

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	of the Treasury (Philippines)		
PRC/0T/AAQ	Capacity-building in debt management in the Caisse congolaise d'amortissement	2011–2015	Congo
SUD/0T/EAU	Technical assistance capacity-building for debt management (Sudan)	2016–	African Development Bank
TOG/0T/FBG	Projet pour la mise en œuvre du SYGADE 6 et le renforcement des capacités de gestion de la dette (Togo)	2017–	European Union
VEN/0T/5AC	Proyecto para la implementación del SIGADE 5.3 y los enlaces con los sistemas de análisis e integración financiera (SIGECOF II; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))	2005–	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
ZAM/0T/BDA	Strengthening integrated public debt management (Zambia)	2012–	Zambia

228. Development context. Effective debt management is an intrinsic part of sound public financial management and overall good governance. More than ever, availability of reliable and timely debt data is essential for prudent risk analysis and the elaboration of government strategies aimed at ensuring sustainable debt levels. The critical role of debt and good debt management that was highlighted under the Millennium Development Goals has again been underlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 17.4 recognizes the importance of assisting developing countries to attain long-term debt sustainability and reducing the risk of debt distress. While there has been a clear improvement in the debt ratios of many developing countries, as a result of debt relief and improved debt management, developing countries still face significant challenges.

229. Programme objectives. The DMFAS Programme is a leading provider of technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of debt management. It offers a set of proven solutions to improve the capacity of beneficiary countries to manage public debt, handle the day-to-day management of public liabilities, produce reliable debt data and perform basic debt analysis for policymaking purposes. The Programme works directly with 57 countries and 85 user institutions.

Geographical distribution of active DMFAS users, 2017



230. Outputs. The DMFAS Programme continued to provide effective support to the 57 countries actively using the its software. It delivered country-specific technical assistance and trained 486 debt officers in 22 countries through 87 capacity-building workshops and other activities. It also supported user countries through its help desk, which responded to 462 requests during the reporting period. During the year, the

Programme actively managed 18 active technical assistance projects and signed five new projects and two addenda to existing projects.

231. The Programme worked in close cooperation with other international bodies, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional institutions, to enhance coordination and avoid duplication.

232. Results (analysis). For the DMFAS client countries, concrete and sustainable results included improved external and domestic debt data recording, enhanced reporting and improved debt analysis capacities in line with the recording and reporting components of the public financial management value chain as defined under the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Programme:

(a) Complete, reliable and up-to date databases: Eighty-seven per cent of countries have developed comprehensive, reliable debt databases in respect of government and government-guaranteed external debt. Sixty-six per cent of DMFAS 6 user-countries whose debt management office is responsible for monitoring domestic debt were using DMFAS to manage their entire domestic debt portfolio.

(b) Improved production of debt statistics: Thirty-six countries regularly produce statistical bulletins on debt.

(c) Strengthened analytical skills: Twenty-seven countries regularly produce a debt portfolio analysis, including four new countries in 2017.

233. Improved capacity for effective debt reporting: As a result of the Programme's assistance in helping countries in their reporting requirements, 98 per cent of DMFAS client countries with low or middle-income levels effectively reported to the World Bank through the Debtor Reporting System. In 2017, 92 per cent of DMFAS clients participating in the World Bank Quarterly External Debt Statistics database reported on a timely basis.

B4 UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework

Table B4
UNCTAD contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
BEN/0T/EAN	EIF: Renforcement des capacités productives et commerciales (Benin)	2015–	United Nations Office for Project Services
BKF/0T/FAB	EIF: Technical assistance in the elaboration of a medium-term plan (Burkina Faso)	2016–	United Nations Office for Project Services
ETH/0T/DBO	EIF: Project Ethiopia diagnostic trade integration study update (Ethiopia)	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
GAM/0T/ECB	EIF: Mainstreaming the diagnostic trade integration study action matrix and building an industrial policy (Gambia)	2016–	United Nations Office for Project Services
MLI/0T/CBN	EIF: Project Mali, diagnostic trade integration study update (Mali)	2013–	United Nations Office for Project Services

234. Development context. The least developed countries represent the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community. They comprise more than 880 million people, about 12 per cent of world population. Yet they account for less than 2 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP) and about 1 per cent of global trade in goods. Against this backdrop, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, also known as the Istanbul Programme of Action, recognized the critical importance of implementing "effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building in least developed countries on a priority basis, including by enhancing the share

of assistance to least developed countries for Aid for Trade and support for the Enhanced Integrated Framework" (paragraph 66, section 3 (e)).

235. The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a multi-agency and multi-donor programme for the coordinated delivery of trade related technical assistance and institutional capacity-building for the least developed countries. It is aimed at enabling the least developed countries to mainstream trade into their national development plans, so that countries can mobilize the potential of trade to promote economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction at the domestic level and to become more active players in the multilateral trading system. In particular, the programme serves as a platform for the least developed countries to build productive capacities and start engaging in trade policymaking, among other activities, that can lead to creating employment and reducing poverty.

236. As one of the six core EIF partner agencies,[10] UNCTAD provides support to help strengthening the capacities of the least developed countries in trade policymaking and thus improve ownership of the EIF process. Specifically, UNCTAD supports such countries under the EIF programme through the formulation of diagnostic trade integration studies and their updates, and by drafting and piloting technical cooperation projects for implementation of the action matrix of such studies, in particular trade-mainstreaming projects and tier 2 projects funded by the EIF Trust Fund.

237. Objectives and features. UNCTAD provides tailored assistance in response to specific requests from EIF-participating countries. Such requests can result in the updating of diagnostic trade integration studies. Assistance can also focus on mainstreaming trade policy issues that are identified in countries' trade diagnostics and preparing and implementing national and regional tier 2 projects drawn from action matrices of such studies. In providing such assistance, UNCTAD uses a mix of national and international expertise to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and maximize results – the approach also contributes to national capacity-building.

238. Output. UNCTAD long advocated the need for a regional dimension in the Framework that was finally introduced in its second phase in 2016 which "permits projects that have a regional dimension – i.e., involve implementation in more than one least developed country". In this context, two regional initiatives have been initiated in 2016 and further developed in 2017. First, subsequent to the study updates of Ethiopia and Djibouti, follow-up activities were conducted to support the joint implementation of the action matrix on transit, transport and trade facilitation.

239. Building on the road maps resulting from a first bilateral technical workshop held in Djibouti in 2016, a second joint workshop was held in Addis Ababa on 11 and 12 May 2017 with Djiboutian and Ethiopian officials to evaluate the progress and define the way forward towards the elaboration of a project proposal for joint action and coordination on transit, transport and trade facilitation. In particular, the participants acknowledged the necessity to create a permanent institutional framework to monitor the trade corridor between Djibouti and Addis Ababa. The event provided a discussion platform for a proper elaboration/implementation of such project, through an exhaustive and detailed assessment of the operation and performance of the Djibouti City–Addis Ababa Transport and Transit Corridor. The event led to a political endorsement at the highest level for the establishment of a managing authority of the Corridor between the two parties. Therefore, a technical assistance programme was developed by UNCTAD as an EIF regional tier 2 project, in collaboration with the Ministries of Commerce of Djibouti and Ethiopia. The project was approved by the EIF National Steering Committee in Ethiopia and is currently under consideration by the EIF and Djiboutian counterpart. Finally, UNTAD experience gained during the activities relating to the diagnostic trade integration studies, and those related to the Addis-Djibouti Trade corridor once the studies were completed, was detailed in a

[10] International Monetary Fund, International Trade Centre, UNCTAD, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank and WTO; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and World Tourism Organization are observers.

forthcoming English-French publication entitled "Turning Diagnostics into Action: The Djibouti City–Addis Ababa Transit and Transport Corridor."

240. A similar initiative was launched in West Africa on how to build coordination in the implementation of the action matrices on trade facilitation, transport and transit for West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). Following the subregional workshop of UNCTAD held in Florence, Italy in 2016, in collaboration with the Academy of Global Governance, the European University Institute and with the participation of the EIF Secretariat, a regional tier 2 project proposal was put forward by UNCTAD in 2017 in cooperation with the respective EIF focal points of these countries, the Permanent Representative of Benin at the United Nations in Geneva, and the EIF Secretariat. To do so, several missions to the four countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, were conducted to ensure national ownership of the project and accurately reflect national realities by integrating comments and observations of the national public and private entities concerned. The project was officially validated by the EIF National Steering Committee of all countries in October and November. The project proposal was officially submitted to the EIF Secretariat in early 2018.

241. Regarding implementation activities under the tier 2 project on strengthening the productive and trade capacities of Benin, UNCTAD continued its assistance to the country in the formulation of its national trade development policy and delivered capacity-building workshops. A mission in February was conducted to define the future steps and to initiate the organization of interministerial working groups on services, challenges faced by the private sector, and trade facilitation and the trade policy instruments in agriculture. During these interministerial group meetings, in March, all national studies drafted as part of the project were validated and thereafter incorporated into a consolidated policy document that submitted in October to the Government of Benin. In November, a mission was conducted to further discuss the finalization of the national trade development policy and to hold a capacity-building workshop on raising the value of traditional products from Benin.

242. Further, UNCTAD made progress in assisting the least developed countries to mainstream trade policies into their development plans under a number of projects developed in this stream of activities. In particular, under the EIF project on mainstreaming the diagnostic trade integration study action matrix and building an industrial policy for the Gambia, two advisory missions were carried out to jointly define with the Government and different stakeholders a national trade strategy and national industry policy on the basis of the existing government strategies. The documents were validated in February 2018.

243. In addition, a project on trade policy advice for Myanmar in light of the impacts of the European Union–Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement was submitted in 2017. Finally, a project proposal was drafted and approved for providing technical assistance to the Government of Haiti in updating its national trade policy and in building trade negotiations capacities of government officials from the Ministry of Commerce. The project is expected to be fully implemented in 2018.

244. Results. Within the context of the EIF, an increasing number of least developed countries made progress in mainstreaming trade policies into their national development plans. They identified trade-related priorities and implemented their action matrices. In addition, the least developed countries have been increasingly able to identify their main constraints in participating in international trade and develop initiatives to foster productive capacities at the subregional level.

B5 Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries

Table B5
Market access, rules of origin and geographical indications for the least developed countries

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/4AY	Integration of the least developed countries, landlocked and island countries in the global economy	2004–	Italy

245. Development context. Least developed countries are granted preferential tariff treatment under several arrangements, such as the Generalized System of Preferences, the Everything but Arms initiative of the European Union and the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States; nonetheless, the least developed countries face significant obstacles to market access.

246. UNCTAD provides policy advice and technical assistance to help the least developed countries comply with requirements on the rules of origin under preferential trading arrangements with a view to improving the utilization rates of preferences granted. Since 2006, for instance, UNCTAD has been assisting the least developed country members of WTO on the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Declaration on duty-free and quota-free market access. In partnership with the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute, a series of executive training courses were successfully organized. UNCTAD helps strengthen the capacity of a core group of least developed country delegates and private sector representatives to effectively advocate for their interests in WTO meetings and maintain a two-way information flow with capitals.

247. This technical assistance has been instrumental in supporting the least developed country WTO Group to drive the decision's implementation as witnessed by the subsequent WTO Ministerial decisions on preferential rules of origin for the least developed countries (Bali, 2013 and Nairobi, 2015). UNCTAD initiatives have generated repeated requests from the Group for continued technical assistance and expansion.

248. In addition to assisting the least developed countries on market access regulations, UNCTAD provides support on geographical indications to enhance export diversification and specialization. Building on a valuable array of traditional products and specific local knowledge in the least developed countries, a branding strategy based on geographical indications may be a viable complementary poverty reduction and environmentally sound policy for commercial and subsistence farming. This is especially relevant, since unilateral trade preferences may provide such countries with a comparative advantage by lowering import tariffs, but competition from similar products is fierce. The origin associated with a product brings to mind a certain reputation and creates trust, which especially in today's globalized world is a strong selling point.

249. In this regard, the least developed countries face considerable challenges to establish a predictable regulatory framework. Identification and registration of traditional products under a geographical indication requires different steps, such as drafting a "disciplinary of production" also called "book of specifications" or "code of practice," which constitutes the main text defining a product's unique identity. Least developed country Governments have limited knowledge on geographical indications, and legal frameworks might not exist or be incomplete. Moreover, sustainable models of regional branding of agriculture produce relying on "terroir" might be absent or mixed with other models of development farming such as organic farming or fair trade initiatives that are not directed at promoting the unique nature of products or their cultural aspects.

250. Objectives and features. The principle of country ownership drives UNCTAD technical assistance on market access, rules of origin and geographical indications.

251. UNCTAD services the least developed countries in the area of market access and rules of origin compliance by:

(a) Providing advice to Governments and the private sector to comply with origin requirements under unilateral (duty-free and quota-free arrangements and contractual trade preferences (free trade areas and regional trade agreements);

(b) Delivering tailor-made technical assistance, such as advisory memorandums on policy options in drafting and negotiating preferential rules of origin under different trading arrangements;

(c) Equipping the least developed countries with specific training material on market access trade preference granted under duty-free and quota-free arrangements and regional trade agreements.

252. In addition, UNCTAD promotes export diversification, protection and marketing using the tool of geographical indications for traditional products in the least developed countries . In response to country requests, UNCTAD provides tailored technical assistance such as advisory services, workshops, the elaboration of policy documents and research studies. In 11 countries to date, UNCTAD has carried out technical cooperation activities with FAO. Among others, the work with Kampot pepper producers in Cambodia and Harenna coffee producers in Ethiopia have proven the significant gains for rural communities from the introduction of geographical indications.

253. Output. UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute, Florence, organized two workshops: one for least-developed-country Geneva-based delegates with regard to the Committee on Rules of Origin in October and an executive training seminar on rules of origin in international trade in May. The seminars addressed the analysis and drafting of rules of origin based on the notifications by preference-granting members in compliance with the Nairobi ministerial decision on rules of origin (2015). Throughout the year, UNCTAD continuously monitored with the WTO Least Developed Country Group notifications of utilization rates of duty-free and quota-free benefits and further assisted the Group by drafting advisory notes and memorandums on WTO issues relating to the least developed countries.

254. Moreover, UNCTAD carried out a number of field missions to Cambodia and Myanmar on market access regulations. Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Cambodia on rules of origin, duty-free and quota-free market access, the Everything but Arms initiative and potential safeguard measures on rice exports to the European Union. In this regard, consultative meetings and a technical workshop were held with the Ministry of Commerce and the Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Programme. In Myanmar, consultations were held with the Ministry of Commerce on the implications for Myanmar and other ASEAN least developed countries of the European Union–Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement.

255. UNCTAD published further research on rules of origin. In collaboration with the Swedish Board of Trade, the publication "*Preference Utilization in the European Union's Free Trade Agreements*" on the role of the stringency of rules of origin on preference utilization rates was released in December 2017. UNCTAD also conducted research on the WTO draft on harmonized non-preferential rules of origin, with the European University Institute. The study, entitled "Rules of Origin as Non-tariff Measures: Towards Greater Regulatory Convergence," was presented during the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO in December 2017. In addition, two handbooks on duty-free and quota-free market access and rules of origin for the least developed countries were published in 2017; part I focused on the Quadrilateral (Quad) countries, and part II, on other preference-granting countries

256. Regarding geographical indications, UNCTAD contributed to several workshops and conferences, disseminating its work and vision on the implementation of geographical indications for the least developed countries. Among them was the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications, held by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the State Administration of Industry and Commerce of China in Yangzhou, China, from 29 June to 1 July. UNCTAD was also invited by the City of Bergamo, Italy, to participate in the Group of 7 Geographical Indications Conference in October, where the Bergamo Declaration on Geographical Indications was finalized and validated. Furthermore, several consultations with partner institutions and Governments were held to ensure future projects. These efforts secured a thematic workshop on geographical indications for least developed country delegates to be held in 2018 with the European University Institute, FAO and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

257. Within the implementation of the EIF tier 2 project on strengthening productive and trade capacities of Benin, UNCTAD supported that country in geographical indication capacity-building. As a follow-up activity to the geographical indication training session for

producers of the pineapples "Pain de Sucre" and the flour "Gari Shohui"[11] held in 2016, UNCTAD developed the geographical indication's Code of Practice for "Gari Sohoui" from Savalou, that was validated in November 2017. During this national validation workshop, 24 women producers reviewed, amended and validated the document that ensured the reflection of their traditional knowledge.

258. Building on the 2015 diagnostic trade integration study update for the Niger, UNCTAD continued its assistance to that country to support the creation of fair employment and sustainable development of rural communities through geographical indications. UNCTAD drafted a project proposal with the aim of promoting small and medium-scale agro-silvo-pastoral and artisanal exports of the Niger. A field mission was conducted in early 2017 to draft the project that is currently under consideration by selected donors.

259. Results. The research and capacity-building activities on market access and rules of origin enhanced the skills and knowledge of least developed country officials on specific operationally important areas of international economic law and policy. This deeper understanding of alternative approaches and implications of trade policy regulations enhanced their capacity to contribute and shape negotiations and the implementation of the WTO least developed country package resulting from the Bali and Nairobi ministerial declarations.

260. Rural communities in the least developed countries started using geographical indications as a mean to increase their exports and productive capacity of traditional goods, while recognizing their importance as a rural development tool. In addition, a direct link was established between representatives of rural communities, capital-based officials and least developed country representatives in Geneva, contributing to a better understanding of the trade development aspects of geographical indications.

B6 Breaking the chains of commodity dependence

Table B6
Breaking the chains of commodity dependence

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/9AX	Global Commodity Forum	2009–	Common Fund for Commodities
ROA-2964 (P9)	Strengthening the capacity of the Economic Community for Central African Member States to enhance domestic production linkages from the mineral resources sector	2015–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (K10)	Value addition of cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa	2016–	Development Account
INT/9X/42Z	Collection and dissemination of iron ore statistics	2017–	Multi-donors)

261. Development context. In many developing countries, an overreliance on exports of raw commodities hinders structural transformation and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD estimates that, in 2016, 91 of 135 developing countries were commodity dependent, that is, countries in which unprocessed agricultural produce, minerals or crude oil constituted 60 per cent or more of total exports. The economic consequences of this dependence are severe. The boom-and-bust cycle of commodity prices severely hampers countries' macroeconomic management. The lack of value

[11] Gari Sohoui is a crisp, slightly acidic flour derived from cassava root. It is one of the many traditional products derived from cassava and is often produced through artisanal methods passed down from one generation of women to the next in rural Benin.

added activities restrains industrial development. In addition, most workers are limited to low-skill, low-paid jobs that risk disappearing with the next drop in prices.

262. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires breaking the chains of commodity dependence. Developing countries should add more value to their commodities and diversify into non-commodity activities. They should anticipate the boom-and-bust cycle of commodity prices with prudent macroeconomic and fiscal management policies. Finally, they should plan how to convert natural resources wealth into better jobs and livelihoods for their citizens. UNCTAD assists countries in these efforts through its programme on breaking the chains of commodity dependence.

263. Objectives. In response to a country request for assistance, UNCTAD works with the country concerned to evaluate its needs towards realizing the following four main thematic outcomes:

(a) Developing value added activities in its commodity sector;

(b) Establishing development linkages between the commodity sector and the wider economy;

(c) Diversifying to non-commodity activities;

(d) Integrating into global and regional value chains.

264. The UNCTAD programme on breaking the chains of commodity dependence develops the capacity of policymakers and stakeholders in project countries to assess the economic viability of investments and commercial initiatives that contribute to the programme's four thematic outcomes, as well as to formulate evidence-based policies in support of their development.

265. Outputs. UNCTAD completed the Development Account project on strengthening development linkages from the mineral resources sector in Central Africa at the end of 2017. Activities during the year included a national capacity-building workshop in Brazzaville and a regional workshop to wrap up the project in Libreville. These workshops raised awareness and knowledge among 145 participants, including 24 women. In addition, 20 people, including 9 women, participated in a study tour in Luanda to learn about the local content policies of Angola concerning its oil sector. Drawing on the information compiled over the course of the project, UNCTAD also implemented online platforms in Chad and the Republic of the Congo, presenting investment opportunities identified during the project.

266. Activities in the Development Account project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa included completing surveys on cotton by-products in three of the four project countries: the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These surveys informed national capacity-building workshops in the same countries. The workshops engaged a total of 186 policymakers and stakeholders, including 35 women, in formulating a national action plan to develop cotton by-products. Each of these plans included some commercial initiatives and supporting policy recommendations. UNCTAD submitted the plans to the respective Governments for validation and will support their implementation with the remainder of the project activities.

267. In 2017, the Iron Ore Information project produced the annual *Iron Ore Market Report*, which provides comprehensive, up-to-date statistics and analysis on developments in the world market for iron ore; and updated its online Iron Ore Statistics Database, accessible through the UNCTADstat platform, for the 27 project subscribers.

268. Results. At its close at the end of 2017, the UNCTAD project on strengthening development linkages from the mineral resources sector in Central Africa had raised awareness among private sector companies and entrepreneurs about business opportunities arising from local content provisions in the oil sector in Chad and the Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, UNCTAD compiled information on these opportunities on a publicly accessible online platform, as a valuable tool for the project countries to attract domestic investment in their oil sectors. Complementing this,

policymakers were equipped with best practices and practical considerations for formulating effective local content policies and regulations in the industry.

269. The UNCTAD project on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa delivered to the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe the data and analysis from surveys on cotton by-products conducted in those countries. This contributes to filling the data gap on cotton by-products, providing valuable information to policymakers and investors on the potential to develop the cotton by-products value chain. Furthermore, the national action plan agreed in the same three countries provides a consensus path forward on developing priority value added activities.

B9 Sustainable and resilient transport

Table B9
Sustainable and resilient transport

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ROA-2963 (O9)	Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: Enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States	2015–	Development Account
ROA-2965 (Q9)	Building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport	2014	Development Account

270. Development context. The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and driver of social development cannot be overemphasized. However, the adverse impacts of freight transport activity on human health, the environment and climate are a cause for concern, as are the potential impacts of climate variability and change on seaports and other coastal transport infrastructure. If left unchecked, unsustainable freight transport patterns are likely to undermine effective achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. With the sustainable and resilient freight transport agenda gaining further momentum in recent years – at the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2012 and 2016 and the United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference in 2016 – UNCTAD has intensified its efforts to mainstream sustainability and climate resilience considerations into its work programme on transport and trade logistics. The overall objective is to assist the effective integration of developing countries into global and/or regional trading networks and transport systems and participation in relevant value chains through, among others, efficient, reliable, cost-effective, well-connected, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient freight transport systems. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade by volume and over 70 per cent by value carried by sea, sustainable and climate resilient maritime transport is a sustainable development catalyst.

271. Objectives and features. The overall objectives of this programme are to assist developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in mainstreaming sustainability considerations (economic, social, and environmental) into their freight transport-strategies, plans and operations.

272. The following projects focused on fostering sustainable freight transport and climate change adaptation for key transport infrastructure :

(a) Promoting sustainable freight transport systems and freight transport finance. In 2017, UNCTAD continued its implementation of the technical assistance project funded by the Development Account on building the capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport (1415Q). The project aims to strengthen the capacity of policymakers (in transport, infrastructure and finance), transport operators (in rail, road, internal waterways and ports) and key financial institutions, in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular East Africa and in the small island developing States of the Caribbean to

promote and finance sustainable freight transport through sound transport policy measures and adequate financing actions and mechanisms;

(b) Climate change impacts and adaptation for seaports and other key coastal transport infrastructure. Drawing on earlier related research, a technical assistance project on climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean and enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States was implemented between 2015 and 2017 (1415O).[12] This Development Account project aims to strengthen the capacity of policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in such States to understand climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure, in particular seaports and airports, and to take appropriate adaptation response measures. Case studies focusing on two vulnerable small island developing States in the Caribbean (Jamaica and Saint Lucia) were carried out to enhance the knowledge and understanding at the national level and to develop a transferable methodology for assessing climate-related impacts and adaptation options in small island developing States. The case studies and methodology were presented and discussed at national and regional capacity-building workshops and will soon be made available on a web platform established under the project.

273. In parallel, a broad range of other activities, including capacity-building and advisory services, were carried out in 2017 to promote sustainable and resilient freight transport strategies that aim to strike a balance between the various economic, social and environmental objectives of freight transportation.

274. Outputs. In the area of sustainable freight transport, relevant activities and outputs relating to the Development Account project on sustainable freight transport development and finance continued to focus on phase 1 of the project that considers the two main transit transport corridors in East Africa, namely the Northern and Central corridors. These two corridors bring together Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. This work is carried out in close collaboration with the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency. To date, relevant capacity-building and training activities have benefited over 100 participants from Member States of both corridors. In addition, UNCTAD has started planning phase 2 of the project, which will focus on sustainable freight transportation in small island developing States in the Caribbean. The project is expected to conclude in 2018.

275. During the year, UNCTAD expanded and refined the Sustainable Freight Transport Toolkit that had been developed under the project to support countries and freight transport stakeholders build their capacity in sustainable freight transport. The Toolkit is composed of three main tools and products that provide guidance on how best to enable a shift towards sustainable freight transport systems. Relevant tools under the Toolkit can be used by a broad range of freight transport stakeholders, irrespective of the region, country or mode of transport. These include the following:

(a) Sustainable Freight Transport Web Portal. A web platform was created in 2015 and further developed and updated with substantive content and relevant information on sustainable freight transport such as information on relevant organizations involved in sustainable freight transport and finance;

(b) Sustainable Freight Transport Training Programme. This programme includes 15 modules on green freight, which can be tailored to respond to local conditions and meet the specific requirements of countries and regions. It also includes a module on transitioning to low carbon shipping, sustainable sea transport solutions for small island developing States and Pacific island country case studies on cooperation. The training package is currently being expanded to cover additional topics;

[12] Relevant technical assistance contributes to implementation of a number of Sustainable Development Goals and targets (for example, 1.5, 9.1, 9.a, 11.b, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 14), as well as to implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Samoa Pathway, and Paris Agreement; and benefits from strong support of member States (Maafikiano, para. 55 (k) and (l)).

(c) UNCTAD Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport. In October, UNCTAD launched the Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport (https://sft-framework.org). A web-based tool, the Framework offers a modular, step-by-step methodology that can help countries and freight transport stakeholders, from both the public and private sector, to effectively plan, design, develop and implement sustainable freight transport strategies.

276. Other outputs helped expand and disseminate information about sustainable freight transport. For example, UNCTAD held a side event – a panel discussion – during the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The panel discussion on climate action in global value chains, which focused on an integrated international trade and transport perspective, was organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation and the Islamic Development Bank. The event helped improve understanding of the linkages between trade, freight transport and climate action and to underscore the need for enhanced collaboration and joint or coordinated action at each level or component of the global value chains to ensure an environmentally friendly and low-carbon sustainable development path.

277. UNCTAD has been actively involved in the Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All) initiative, a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together a diverse high-level group of stakeholders to help transform the transport sector. The first outcome of this partnership was the *Global Mobility Report 2017* for which UNCTAD provided substantive inputs. (https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28542/120500.pdf?sequence=5).

278. UNCTAD took part in the second meeting of the United Nations Development Programme–Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency Working Group on Trade and the Sustainable Development Goals held in Cairo in September. Supported by the two bodies in collaboration with the League of Arab States, the meeting addressed the interlinkages between trade and the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of efforts to promote trade integration within the Arab region and implementation of thethe Pan-Arabic Free Trade Area. UNCTAD underscored the role of sustainable freight transport in enabling the implementation of the Goals and clarified the determinants of maritime transport costs and related implications for the Arab region's intraregional trade and its ability to participate in regional and global value chains.

279. UNCTAD had also carried out a fact-finding mission to the Sudan to assess Port Sudan's needs and gaps in the field of sustainable port and trans-shipment operations. This activity followed the recommendations contained in the National Trade Facilitation Road Map 2017–2021 of the Sudan. The field mission allowed UNCTAD to meet with relevant counterparts at Port Sudan and regulatory authorities in Khartoum and determine actions required to help implement Goals 29 (draw up a plan to foster trans-shipment and transit) and 30 (draw up a plan to reduce delays in clearance at maritime ports) set out in the Road Map. The ultimate objective is to help build the capacity of Port Sudan in sustainable freight transport and more specifically, in the area of port, trans-shipment and transit transport operations. A dedicated and tailored training agenda focusing on three main priority areas identified by Port Sudan and its stakeholders was prepared. Areas of focus include port performance indicators; private sector involvement in port management and public–private partnerships, port concession and port community systems/single window. The training session will be delivered in the first half of 2018.

280. In the area of climate-resilient transport, the Development Account-financed project on climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean and enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States made considerable progress towards its objectives of building capacity of such States to better assess the impact of climate change and identify adaptation measures for their coastal transport infrastructure. Implementation of project activities benefited from close collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America, the United Nations Development Programme, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Commission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, as well as the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, among others. The following activities were carried out in 2017:

(a) Two national capacity-building workshops were held in Saint Lucia (Rodney Bay, 24–26 May) and Jamaica (Kingston, 30 May–1 June), respectively, to bring together relevant stakeholders and to present and discuss the draft case studies, as well as the draft methodology developed under the project. The workshops also provided an important opportunity for feedback and further input by national stakeholders, with a view to finalizing the case studies. Further, the case studies benefit from state-of the art flood- and inundation-modelling outputs that were generously contributed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. High-quality flood maps focusing on the ports and airports considered in depth as part of the case studies in Saint Lucia and Jamaica illustrate the vulnerability to marine flooding of key international transport assets in both countries. Vulnerability to some other climate factors was identified using a thresholds method developed as part of the methodology;

(b) A regional capacity-building workshop on climate change impacts and adaptation for Caribbean coastal transport infrastructure was held in Barbados (Bridgetown, 5–7 December), bringing together seaports and airports authorities as well as a range of other stakeholders, experts, development partners, and organizations from the wider Caribbean region (21 countries and territories). The regional workshop provided an opportunity to present and discuss the findings of the national case studies of Jamaica and Saint Lucia, and to provide demonstrations and training on the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Framework for Caribbean Costal Transport Infrastructure developed as part of the project. In light of the impacts of the devastating hurricane season of 2017, the regional workshop also served as an important topical forum for exchange and discussion of collaborative action among stakeholders in the region;

(c) Following the regional workshop, a one-day technical follow-up meeting was held for stakeholders from Saint Lucia and Jamaica (8 December) to provide an opportunity for detailed discussions about relevant follow-up and areas for collaborative action. Several specific areas for follow-up at the national and regional levels were identified;

(d) In response to calls by key stakeholders to deepen and expand the work carried out under the project to the wider Caribbean region, as part of the final activities under the project, a technical expert meeting was held in Geneva to bring together key regional and international partners, academic experts and United Nations agencies for discussions on substantive follow-up and recommendations with a view to enhancing overall sustainability and impact;

(e) An academic paper relating some of the key substantive findings and some of the technical elements of the methodology developed as part of the project will be published in a forthcoming special issue of the scientific journal *Regional Environmental Change*. The case studies and methodology, as well as related guidance and training materials are available on an interactive web platform established under the project (SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org).

281. In support of the project, UNCTAD participated in a conference on navigating a changing climate (March 2017), organized by the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure. UNCTAD also took part in the International Civil Aviation Organization–United Nations Workshop on aviation partnerships for sustainable development held as part of the 2017 Global Sustainable Aviation Summit (3 October) highlighting the case for action in respect of climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in small island developing States. In addition, UNCTAD contributed to a United Nations system side event held as part of the formal programme at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in collaboration with the Partnership for Action on Green Economy and WTO, on how to build green and inclusive economies to implement the Paris Agreement (9 November) and participated in an international symposium on the challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient coastal infrastructure investments (8 November). UNCTAD is also participating in an international reference group contributing to the development of a law and climate change toolkit, an online database initiated by the United Nations Climate Change secretariat (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commonwealth Secretariat, in close collaboration with a number of

international organizations, development banks and specialized agencies and in consultation with national experts and research institutions. The toolkit will provide a global resource to help countries put in place the legal frameworks necessary for effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement and their nationally determined contributions. The initial model of the online database was presented during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Climate Conference in November.

282. Complementing its technical assistance work, UNCTAD also published the findings of a port industry survey on climate variability and change, designed in collaboration with global port industry associations and other experts. The survey aimed to improve the understanding of weather and climate-related impacts on ports and to identify data availability and information needs, as well as to determine current levels of resilience and preparedness among ports. Relevant information is urgently required for the purposes of risk assessment and adaptation planning, including in particular for ports in developing regions. The study revealed large gaps in terms of relevant information available to seaports of all sizes and across regions, with implications for effective climate risk assessment and adaptation planning.

283. UNCTAD continued to provide advice and policy guidance in response to requests received from various governmental and intergovernmental entities, as well as non-governmental organizations. Substantive areas of focus include the legal framework on international shipping and maritime law, particularly commercial maritime transport law, as well as issues related to ship-source pollution and related environmental challenges, ship and port security and safety, sustainable transport and the implications of climate change for maritime transport, including in particular the potential impacts of climate variability and change on seaports and associated adaptation requirements.

284. Results and impacts. Technical cooperation activities and advisory services in the field of freight transport, including sustainable and resilient freight transport, have reinforced the role of UNCTAD for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. The contribution of UNCTAD to the various global and United Nations-wide sustainable development related initiatives (for example, Sustainable Mobility, United Nations-Oceans and the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) underscores its role as a key player in the field of sustainable development in general, and sustainable and resilient freight transport in particular. It also highlights its broad reach and ability to shape potential agreed outcomes and decisions.

285. An important follow-up action that emerged directly as an outcome of the UNCTAD activities on sustainable freight transport is the commitment by the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency to make use of the guidance contained in the Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport to develop their respective corridors' sustainable freight transport strategies. Both the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency are planning to integrate these strategies into their strategic plans. This development illustrates the tangible and profound impact of the UNCTAD's technical cooperation work on sustainable freight transport.

286. Feedback received from beneficiaries (e.g. Northern and Central corridor Member States), key stakeholders and partners has generally been positive. For example, a number of member countries have commended UNCTAD for the Toolkit and Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport, in particular, and noted the timeliness of this work given the global sustainable development agenda. Some countries expressed interest in applying the Framework and other guidance available under the Toolkit, while others requested that the Framework be made available in more than one official United Nations language.

287. The project entitled "Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: Enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States" was completed in 2017. The main deliverables and outputs were as follows: two case studies, which provided high-quality substantive findings; a climate risk and vulnerability

assessment framework developed as part of the project; and three capacity-building workshops held in the region, which were well received by key regional stakeholders, including seaports and airports authorities from 21 countries and territories in the wider Caribbean region and 180 participants, and prompted significant requests for enhanced capacity-building and follow-up work with a focus on the region Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, with a view to informing infrastructure funding proposals under the Green Climate Fund, in particular for countries hardest hit by the impacts of the 2017 hurricane season. Extensive interdisciplinary collaboration and synergies developed with regional, international and academic experts as part of the project resulted in significant added value to the project and its outcomes on the ground and are expected to form the basis for significant follow-up work, building on the project's key substantive findings and outputs, as well as the preparation of further academic publications.

B99 Other

Table B99
Other

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	Numerous divisions		
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity-building in investment for development (Benin)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity-building in investment for development (Bangladesh)	2015–	Netherlands
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity-building in investment for development (Kenya)	2015–	Netherlands
ROA-2907 (N8)	Building national capacities for promoting foreign direct investment in green and other growth sectors	2013–2017	Development Account
Division on Investment and Enterprise	*Investment policies*		
RAS/0T/EAY	ASEAN Investment Report, 2015–2017	2015–	ASEAN
Division on Globalization and Development Strategies	*Globalization and development strategies*		
Pal/0t/Bal	Capacity development for facilitating Palestinian trade	2011–	Canada
PAL/0T/FAS	Support for the capacity of UNCTAD Assistance to the Palestinian People programme	2016–	Qatar Development Fund
ROA-2959 (K9)	Building capacity of developing countries' policymakers to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance	2014–	Development Account
Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes	*Productive capacities in* landlocked developing countries		

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ROA-1617 (M10)	Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence based policymaking in landlocked developing countries	2016–	Development Account
Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes	*Strengthening support for trade mainstreaming*		
INT/9X/77J	Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries: core project	1997–	Multi-donors
ROA-2961 (M9)	Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports	2015–	Development Account
ROA-2906 (M8)	Strengthening the capacities of trade and planning ministries of selected least developed countries to develop and implement trade strategies that are conducive to poverty reduction	2013–	Development Account
Office of the Secretary-General	*Executive direction and management*		
GLO/0T/8CG	Support to the Avian influenza and Food Crisis Coordination Office	2008–	United Nations Development Programme
INT/0T/AAO	Civil society participation in UNCTAD activities	2011–	Multi-donors

1.Assistance to the Palestinian people

288. Development context. Half a century has passed since Israel occupied the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; the longest occupation in recent history. These have been five decades of de-development, suppressed human potential and denial of the Palestinian people's right to development. Under the prolonged occupation, the productive capacity of the Palestinian economy has been eroded and unemployment has persisted at levels rarely seen around the world since the Great Depression. Recent episodes of growth in GDP have been weak, driven by an unsustainable expansion in private consumption. Weak GDP growth barely kept up with population growth and did not have much positive impact on per capita income. In 2016, real per capita GDP was roughly at the level in 1999; $1,766 in constant 2004 dollars, while in Gaza since 1995, per capita GDP has shrunk by 23 per cent. This weak consumption-led growth continued as data of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics indicates that GDP growth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was 3.2 per cent in 2017, which implies that per capita GDP continued to stagnate.

289. In 2016, the Palestinian National Authority achieved favourable, but unsustainable, revenue performance. The 24 per cent increase in revenue is not sustainable, since it was the result of one-time windfalls in two areas, namely receipt of $145 million in telecommunications licensing fees (an additional $73 million in 2017 and 2018) and two payments totalling $300 million made by Israel to compensate the Authority for leaked fiscal resources related to health stamps, equalization levies, border exit fees and value added tax. Despite the decline in total net revenue in 2017, the Authority continued its longstanding efforts to reduce the fiscal deficit by controlling its expenditures and succeeded in reducing the overall fiscal deficit to 7.7 per cent of GDP; down from 8.1 per cent in 2016.

290. One of the harshest consequences of occupation is an unemployment rate that is persistently among the highest in the world. In 2017, unemployment remained high, in the range of 19 per cent in the West Bank, and 46.6 per cent in Gaza. Unemployed Palestinians are twice as likely to be poor compared with those employed. The dependency ratio of 7 in Gaza and 5 in the West Bank means that, on average, the joblessness of one Palestinian worker has an impact on six other Palestinians.

291. Asymmetric economic relations continue to impose and reinforce Palestinian economic dependence on Israel, which has consistently accounted for at least half of Palestinian trade, while the share of the Occupied Palestinian Territory in the total trade of Israel remains around 3 per cent. In 2016, Palestinian imports from Israel exceeded exports to Israel by $2.6 billion (19.4 per cent of GDP), at a time when cheaper and more competitive sources for Palestinian imports are available worldwide but are inaccessible due to the complex restrictions imposed by Israel on Palestinian trade.

292. In Gaza, economic performance over the past two decades has been the worst in the world. The severity of the protracted, unprecedented level of human suffering can be gleaned from the following:

(a) There have been more than 10 years of land, sea and air blockades;

(b) Thirty-five per cent of the agricultural land and 85 per cent of the fishing waters of Gaza are not accessible to producers;

(c) Exports from Gaza were 65 per cent lower in early 2017 than the level in 2007;

(d) Two thirds of the population of Gaza depend on humanitarian assistance;

(e) About half of the population is food insecure, although 80 per cent receive food assistance and other forms of social transfers;

(f) Electric power was unavailable for 12–18 hours per day in 2016 and up to 20 hours per day in early 2017. This cripples all economic activities and impedes the delivery of services, especially water supply, sewage treatment and health services.

293. Despite the worsening economic and humanitarian conditions under prolonged occupation, in the past few years, the Palestinian economy has suffered from a 38 per cent decrease in donor support. The Palestinian National Authority responded to this shock with expenditure controls and a combination of unsustainable borrowing from domestic banks and the accumulation of arrears to the private sector and the pension fund. However, the Authority has run out of less painful options for cutting spending. Any further fiscal austerity will affect the provision of critically important public services and may trigger perilous economic, social and political consequences.

294. Objectives and features. The UNCTAD programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continues to directly respond to paragraph 55(dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which requests UNCTAD to "continue to assess the economic development prospects of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and examine obstacles to trade and development, as part of the international community's commitment to building an independent Palestinian State, and with a view to alleviating the adverse economic and social conditions imposed on the Palestinian people". This programme is also guided by paragraph 31(m) of the Doha Mandate, paragraph (44) of the Accra Accord and paragraph 35 of the Sao Paulo Consensus. The mandate of UNCTAD was further expanded by the United Nations General Assembly in resolutions 69/20 of 25 November 2014, 70/12 of 24 November 2015, A/71/20 of 30 November 2016 and 72/13 of 20 November 2017, which request UNCTAD to report to the General Assembly on the economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people. The programme aims to build and strengthen the institutional capacities of the Palestinian public and the private sectors required for building a robust economy to underpin the future independent Palestinian State.

295. In 2017, the UNCTAD programme on assistance to the Palestinian people continued to respond to the evolving, multifaceted, complex needs of the Palestinian economy and sustained its efforts to build Palestinian public and private sector capacities

required for facilitating the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

296. The programme addresses the Palestinian economy's constraints and emerging needs through the following four clusters:

(a) Trade policies and strategies;

(b) Trade facilitation and logistics;

(c) Finance and development;

(d) Enterprise, investment and competition policy.

297. Outputs. For over three decades, UNCTAD has been supporting the Palestinian people through relevant policy-oriented research studies, the implementation of technical cooperation projects, the provision of advisory services and the promotion of international consensus on the needs of the Palestinian people. The main counterparts of UNCTAD are the Palestinian National Authority, Palestinian civil society, the private sector, and international agencies and donors operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

298. Research and policy analysis. In response to the aforementioned General Assembly resolutions requesting UNCTAD to report on the economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people, UNCTAD in 2017 and in early 2018 finalized a study entitled "The Economic Costs of the Israeli Occupation for the Palestinian People and their Human Right to Development: Legal Dimensions". The study focuses on economic and development issues under international law, namely the Hague Regulations, the Fourth Geneva Conventions, the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights and human rights law – all in relation to the economic cost imposed by occupation on key sectors of the Palestinian economy. The study draws attention to the cost imposed by occupation for the Palestinian people and emphasizes the need to avoid actions that impede development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

299. Furthermore, the findings of UNCTAD reports to the Trade and Development Board have been echoed and confirmed by historic United Nations Security Council resolution 2334, especially with regard to the deleterious impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian economic development and prospects for a two-State solution.

300. UNCTAD continued to provide inputs and feedback to the United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in areas of its competency as the United Nations focal point for Palestinian trade and development. As such, UNCTAD made contributions to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and to the United Nations Country Team action plan for operationalizing the United Nations engagement strategy in East Jerusalem.

301. Moreover, UNCTAD provided continuous advisory services to the Palestinian Government and various public and private sector institutions, international organizations, researchers and academics.

302. UNCTAD analysis of the obstacles to trade and development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory received wide endorsement and used as inputs for the positions and policies adopted by Governments, private sector, international organizations, researchers and academics. Publications by UNCTAD are also used as reference resources by universities and various national and international organizations.

303. Recently, UNCTAD successfully completed a project on capacity development for facilitating Palestinian trade. One of the key achievements of the project was the establishment of a professional diploma training programme, entitled Supply Chain Management, which was developed jointly by UNCTAD, the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, the Palestinian Shippers Council and Birzeit University. The programme features eight modules covering key aspects of international trade, including legal and regulatory aspects, contracts, insurance, transport procedures, logistics management and customs procedures. The programme is designed to serve the needs of Palestinian exporters, importers, customs brokers, government staff, young graduates,

lawyers and other professionals with an interest in the field. In 2017, the programme was accredited by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

304. UNCTAD in 2017 continued its efforts to strengthen the capacity of Palestinian customs by proposing to the Palestinian National Authority and donors a new round of cooperation to modernize and update the version of ASYCUDA World presently used by Palestinian customs. The proposed new intervention aims, among other things, to strengthen Palestinian capacity for customs valuation, risk analysis and customs and post-clearance controls. It also seeks to establish an interface between ASYCUDA in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the global gate system used in Israel to facilitate the exchange of trade data between the two systems in real time. This interface is essential for Palestinian fiscal sustainability. It can be used to ensure timely access by the Authority to accurate, comprehensive Palestinian trade data, which is a prerequisite for stemming the leakage of hundreds of millions of dollars of Palestinian fiscal resources to Israel.

305. Furthermore, given the increasing Palestinian debt and its growing complexity, UNCTAD continued dialogue with Palestinian National Authority officials at the Ministry of Finance and Planning to reintroduce the DMFAS programme to enhance the quality and scope of Palestinian public financial management. DMFAS can play a key role in mitigating the evolving risk of debt distress and ensuring that Palestinian public debt remains sustainable.

306. In 2017, UNCTAD benefited from a grant agreement signed with the State of Qatar. Qatari support enhanced the capacity of UNCTAD to provide vital support for the Palestinian people's efforts to achieve sustainable development and lay the foundations of a sound, well-functioning economy to underpin a future sovereign Palestinian State. The grant allowed UNCTAD to recruit a professional to help carry out its mandate, including its professional, technical cooperation and research activities. The new professional contributed to the development of a macroeconometric model for the Palestinian economy, the provision of advisory services to public and private sector institutions, and the preparation of envisioned technical cooperation.

307. Results. The Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education accredited a diploma programme on supply chain management. The programme will increase the knowledge of the Palestinian shipping community on international trade management and improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the private sector as a whole. The establishment and accreditation of the programme caps major achievements in previous years, including building the managerial capacity and organizational structure of the Palestinian Shippers Council and enhancing its overall capacity for servicing the shippers' community and the private sector.

308. The work of UNCTAD was acknowledged by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/13 of November 2017, which notes with appreciation the UNCTAD report entitled "Economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people" (A/71/174) presented in November 2016 to the General Assembly. The report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 69/20 (2014) and 70/12 (2015). Resolution 72/13 also calls for extending necessary resources to UNCTAD to continue the assessment and reporting on economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people.

309. In addition, the work of UNCTAD was acknowledged by resolution 676 of the League of Arab States, 2017, which welcomes UNCTAD efforts and its report to the General Assembly. The resolution calls on Arab States to extend support for UNCTAD to produce reference material on the economic cost of occupation.

310. Policy studies continued to provide a reference for organizations, researchers, institutions, Palestinian National Authority officials and other international organizations.

2. Sovereign debt governance

2.1. Building capacity of developing country policymakers to address regulatory and institutional gaps in sovereign debt governance

311. Development context. UNCTAD work in sovereign debt has revealed that some developing country policymakers require technical assistance to improve the regulatory and institutional settings for sovereign lending and borrowing. Governance issues stemming from a lack of transparency and unclear responsibilities in the debt contracting process are generally one of the key problems in this area.

312. At the end of 2009, UNCTAD launched an initiative to promote responsible sovereign lending and borrowing. In cooperation with an expert group composed of world renowned professionals and academics in the area of debt and development finance, UNCTAD successfully formulated a set of principles to guide responsible sovereign lending and borrowing practices. The Principles on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing are intended to establish clear responsibilities on both the borrower's and the lender's sides with the aim of reducing the prevalence of sovereign debt crises and promoting sustained economic growth. The Principles have been broadly welcomed by Member States and other stakeholders, including the Paris Club, multilateral financial institutions and civil society.

313. During the consultations with Member States leading up to the endorsement process, it became evident that certain countries would require assistance to design and/or adapt their regulatory (and institutional) frameworks so as to implement the responsible practices outlined in the principles. Some of the countries inquired as to whether UNCTAD would be able to provide additional assistance in this matter.

314. Contents of the project are differentiated from other technical assistance activities conducted in different organizations (such as the Bretton Woods institutions) to monitor the effectiveness of debt management frameworks. The current project does not deal with the management of debt offices; instead it focuses on the larger scope of domestic regulations which affect decisions in sovereign debt governance at the policymaking level.

315. Objectives and features. The objective of the project is to increase the capacity of policymakers at the regulatory and policy implementation levels to design and implement policies that foster responsible practices in sovereign debt governance through the adaptation of their regulatory and institutional frameworks. The project is focused on developing policy and regulatory guidance and targets key policymakers and regulatory authorities.

316. Outputs. In 2017, project country representatives of Haiti, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Nepal and Togo participated in a study tour organized for senior staff from the relevant ministries of beneficiary countries to other countries with more advanced regulatory and institutional settings in the field of sovereign debt governance, as it allows them to observe the regulatory and organizational features of responsible debt management in other countries. This activity was subdivided into two parts:

(a) Part 1: Participants from project countries were invited to come to the Debt Conference in Geneva, as the conference dealt with a number of sovereign debt governance topics, such as "When is a debt sustainable?" (panel 3), "State-contingent debt instruments for sovereigns: Can they be made to work?" (panel 5) and "Responsible financing: The role of soft law in promoting sustainable lending and borrowing practice" (panel 6). This allowed representatives from project countries to gain important insights into current best practices achieving medium-term sustainability. Moreover, as the participants from project countries obtained a wealth of information related to sovereign debt governance during the conference, the study tour to another country was compressed to a much shorter time frame (3–4 days rather than the 7–10 days planned in the project document);

(b) Part 2: The study tour for French-speaking project countries lasted four days and was hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Morocco. It was clear from the questionnaires that participants learned a great deal from this activity.

317. Results. Replies to questionnaires sent out to participants indicate that these activities fully met their expectations and helped them achieve their medium-term strategic objectives.

318. The project also generated much interest in the wider development community, as it became clear that its contribution to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was tangible.

3. Productive capacities in landlocked developing countries

3.1. Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries

319. Development context. A key lesson drawn from the research and policy analysis work of UNCTAD is that placing the development of productive capacities at the heart of trade and development policies is essential for landlocked developing countries to address their underdevelopment and to put them on the path of sustainable development. This calls for measuring and benchmarking productive capacities in the least developed countries through a careful identification of indicators. Therefore, the ultimate outcome of this project will be productive capacity indices that will be constructed and validated for three beneficiary countries. In each beneficiary country, government officials responsible for statistical and development analysis will be trained in monitoring the indices, and in using them to generate and implement development strategies.

320. Objectives and features. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of selected landlocked developing countries to develop productive capacity indices[11] and use them to support evidence-based policymaking. With this objective in mind, the project assists in defining the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework for identifying, selecting and validating indicators, which will be used in the construction of such indices.

321. Outputs. A national case study was finalized for Botswana, and a capacity-building workshop organized in Gaborone on 7 and 8 February. Thirty-six participants drawn from various Government ministries and institutions, think tanks, academia and the private sector of the country took part in the workshop. Of these, 26 (72 per cent) were women. In addition, a brainstorming meeting with selected experts was held in Geneva on 29 and 30 June on building productive capacities in structurally weak developing countries. The resources for the national event and the Geneva brainstorming meeting with experts came from ongoing UNCTAD projects financed by the Common Fund for Commodities.

322. While the national workshop helped to reach out to policymakers and practitioners, the expert meeting in Geneva helped to bring the expertise and experiences of several United Nations agencies, other international organizations, academics and independent experts to seek technical and policy level convergence on the best approach to mainstream productive capacities in national development policies and strategies. The outcomes of the national and brainstorming meetings fed into the high-level panel session held during the regular session of the Trade and Development Board in September 2017 on building productive capacities. Technical issues discussed at the meetings in Gaborone and Geneva also livened the discussions at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, which was held in Geneva on 6 and 7 November on the ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

323. Results. As a result of the national case study, as well as the meetings in Geneva at the level of policymakers and experts, UNCTAD was able to considerably refine its work on measurable productive capacities indices, and make them more policy relevant. The project also served to strengthen the capacities of numerous policymakers and experts in benchmarking productive capacities.

[11] Productive capacity indices are composite indices or scores used, where data permits, to measure the state (condition) of productive capacities in economies on the basis of a set of subindices, covering areas such as structural economic transformation, transport, ICT, innovation and technology, employment and labour productivity, energy and private sector development, and so forth.

324. UNCTAD is planning to publish the draft productive capacities index in the coming months, and to hold two further national workshops to validate its findings, and train officials in monitoring productive capacities and using the index for designing evidence-based policies.

3.2. Identifying growth opportunities and supporting measures to facilitate investment in commodity value chains in landlocked countries

325. Development context. The countries covered by the current work, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan, have significant potential in energy exports (including reserves) in various forms – hydroelectricity, fossil fuel, solar and wind. They export mainly fossil fuel and hydroelectricity (in the case of Bhutan) but still face the challenges of diversification as can be seen from the degree and extent of their dependency on a few commodities for exports. Therefore, the work will assist to closely examine the role of energy in commodity diversification with the focus on energy- and fuels-exporting landlocked developing countries in Asia. The preliminary work of UNCTAD shows that the relationship between the energy development index and the productive capacity indices of these countries is weak and, in most cases, inversely related. Such a relationship signifies that energy-exporting countries are not fully harnessing their potential to build their productive basis and accelerate economic transformation.

326. Many countries in Africa and even in Asia face challenges in their commodity diversification efforts partly because energy – both in terms of access and productive use – remains one of the key obstacles undermining efforts to diversification, especially into manufacturing. Many landlocked developing countries were also unable to take advantage of opportunities presented by regional and global commodity value chains due mainly to deficient energy infrastructure, poor access to modern energy sources, high transmission and distribution losses and inability to use energy in productive sectors. However, the perplexing challenge is that even in energy-producing and exporting countries such as Kazakhstan (where energy and fuel exports account for 65–70 per cent of total merchandise exports), Turkmenistan (45–50 per cent), Bhutan (hydroelectricity exports to India representing
35–40 per cent of total merchandise exports) and Mongolia (9.6 per cent of total merchandise exports excluding coal exports), economic diversification still remains a daunting challenge.

327. Objectives and features. This is an UNCTAD-wide (interdivisional project) with the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes coordinating the overall implementation of the project. The project contributed to policy discussions on ways and means for turning commodity dependence into sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth for landlocked developing countries. It particularly assisted in providing high-quality analysis, and substantive and technical inputs to national and global policymaking processes on how to best capture gains from natural resource wealth to spur socioeconomic transformation of such countries. More specifically, the project helped to analyse how the landlocked condition affects the capacity of a given country to develop its commodity sector in a sustainable way.

328. Building on this earlier work and in view of continuously addressing the challenges of economic diversification facing landlocked developing countries, the project further explored the possibilities of economic diversification into fossil-fuel and other energy-exporting countries with a focus on Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

329. Outputs. Report: *Export Diversification and Inclusive Growth in Landlocked Countries in Asia: Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan*. The draft study analyses the economic structure of the four energy-exporting economies, and identifies sectors with potential for greater diversification of the economy. In particular, the study provides examples of potential export products that use similar production techniques or processes as those used for existing products. The study also identifies new sectors with unexploited potential, and outlines specific policies and measures that the countries can take to support diversification.

330. Report: *Uzbekistan's Cotton Value Chain*. The study provides a detailed overview of cotton production in Uzbekistan, as well as the structure of the country's cotton exports. The study further provides recommendations on how to increase the efficiency of the sector and capture higher value added segments of the value chain.

331. Results. The project closely examined the role of energy in economic diversification efforts of the beneficiary countries. Successful country experiences and best practices were identified and shared as recommended policies and strategies to use energy to build productive capacities and thus accelerate economic transformation.

4. Trade mainstreaming in the least developed countries

4.1. Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries

332. Development context. Contributions to the multi-donor Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries help to strengthen national policymaking capacity and assist countries in the preparation and implementation of projects and programmes of action.

333. Objectives. The objective is to provide the least developed countries with alternative and more relevant policy options and assist them to develop their capacities to implement policies. This has been primarily achieved by fostering occasions for representatives from Member States and international and national experts to reflect on policies and possibilities to engage in dialogue and explore policy options to support more sustainable and inclusive growth.

334. Resources available through the Trust Fund have helped to finance the organization of national and international workshops, expert meetings and brainstorming events to support the least developed countries in strengthening productive capacities and diversifying and expanding trade.

335. Outputs. The following three main outputs, in the form of capacity-building workshops, were financed through the Trust Fund:

(a) Workshop on the joint implementation of action matrices of the diagnostic trade integration studies of Ethiopia and Djibouti on transit, transport and trade facilitation: Building on the diagnostic trade integration study updates of Ethiopia and Djibouti, UNCTAD arranged a second workshop between Ethiopia and Djibouti to discuss and agree follow-up actions. Activities focused on aspects of trade facilitation with an aim to identify strategies to improve the logistics of the Djibouti–Ethiopia trade and transport corridor linking Djibouti City and Addis Ababa with the ports of Djibouti. The workshop was held in Addis Ababa on 11 and 12 May 2017 to discuss the findings of an UNCTAD study and define the detailed road map for the related technical assistance proposal. The workshop provided an opportunity to exchange the Ethiopian and Djiboutian perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of a proper functioning of the Addis–Djibouti trade corridor through the establishment of a management authority;

(b) Ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action. Economic growth alone has not guaranteed sustainable and inclusive development, as shown by recent experiences in the least developed countries. Despite high growth in the early 2000s, the least developed countries have not been able to improve human and social indicators or significantly increase employment or manufacturing value added. UNCTAD work has revealed that sustainable and inclusive growth and development can only be realized through building or developing productive capacities as key ingredients of structural transformation and economic diversification. To further explore this topic, UNCTAD organized an expert meeting on the ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, which was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 6 and 7 November 2017. Experts assessed the progress that has been made by the least developed countries vis-à-vis the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action related to building productive capacities and doubling their share in global exports, while enhancing benefits from global trade. The meeting also examined the respective roles of Governments and the private sector in building productive capacities and accelerating transformative

development. Experiences in mobilizing financial resources for productive capacity development in the least developed countries were also shared and debated among participants;

(c) Fostering productive capacities in structurally weak developing economies. For several decades, the focus of development policies in structurally weak economies such as those in Africa, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries was on generating higher levels of economic growth. However, a consensus has emerged that although growth is a necessary condition to reduce poverty in poor countries, it is not a sufficient condition by itself. Despite the relatively high growth experienced by structurally weaker economies over the past decade, they have not been able to generate adequate employment opportunities and the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty in these countries continues to increase. Fostering productive capacities in structurally weak developing economies is challenging because they are heavily dependent on a few primary commodities for exports and have low financial and human resources, weak institutional capacities, low technological capabilities, and weak production linkages. In this context, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will depend in part on the extent to which structurally weak developing economies can build and mainstream productive capacities into domestic trade and development polices. It will also depend on the extent to which the international community is able and willing to effectively assist them in lifting the binding constraints to growth and development. A workshop on building productive capacities in structurally weak developing countries, held in Geneva on 29 and 30 June, provided an important platform for in-depth discussions and exchange of views on how best to assist structurally weak developing countries in developing their productive capacities. It also led to the identification of areas for further cooperation and collaboration among the relevant United Nations system agencies and other stakeholders in supporting efforts to foster productive capacities in structurally weak developing countries. During the meeting, a series of presentations were made on substantive and technical aspects of developing productive capacities. The presentations also included a reflection on the definition of the concept of productive capacities and the challenges, as well as opportunities in measuring progress in the area. United Nations system agencies and bodies (for example, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Committee for Development Policy and the International Trade Centre) and other international organizations (IATA and the Commonwealth Secretariat), academics from the Australian National University, the University of Nairobi and the Botswana Institute for Development Policy, as well as experts from UNCTAD actively participated and contributed to the discussions.

336. Results. The implementation of the above-mentioned activities has led to the following results.

337. As a result of the workshop on the joint implementation of the diagnostic trade integration studies in Ethiopia and Djibouti, and at the request of the concerned member countries, a technical assistance programme was designed as an EIF regional tier II project. The establishment of a joint management authority of the trade corridor was politically endorsed at the highest level.

338. As a result of the workshop on ways and means of improving the implementation of the priority areas included in the Istanbul Programme of Action, UNCTAD produced a background document entitled "Improving implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action goals and targets related to productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in global exports" (TD/B/C.I/EM.9/2), which provided an assessment of the progress achieved by the least developed countries towards specific goals and targets in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. Knowing where they are in terms of targets achievements, should enable a better and more targeted planning from the least developed countries themselves.

339. The workshop on building productive capacities in structurally weak developing countries provided the theoretical foundations for measuring productive capacities in vulnerable economies. Measuring productive capacities is particularly important, as it will enable countries to better know their starting point and thus have a better idea of the policies needed for their domestic development.

4.2. Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports

340. Development context. The fishery sector holds significant potential for many least developed countries. Six of the top 16 producers of fish from inland waters are least developed countries and for 14 of the 48 least developed countries, fish are one of their top five export products. In terms of food security, fish accounts for 50 per cent of the animal protein consumed in many least developed countries. The global average of animal protein consumed from fish and fishery products is about 17 per cent. The sector also offers employment opportunities for significant number of population in such countries. In Bangladesh alone, 15 million people are directly employed, whereas in Cambodia 40 per cent of the population directly or indirectly depend on the fisheries sector.

341. The sector remains largely informal, dominated by traditional or artisanal activities with limited access to more productive industrial food processing. Consequently, over the last three decades, the share of the least developed countries and small island developing States in total fishery exports has been stagnant and remains negligible. This is due to a number of binding constraints on both the supply- and demand-side of the industry. On the supply side, the main constraints are as follows: deficient transportation and storage facilities; poor energy infrastructure and high electricity cost; lack of investment, finance or credit to small operators; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, overfishing and depletion of fish resources; water pollution; and a lack of common fishery policies among countries that share water resources. On the demand side, the most pervasive problem facing the least developed countries is their inability to comply with food quality and safety standards imposed by importing countries. This problem is further compounded and reinforced by supply-side problems. Stringent safety and quality norms – public or private – block access to major importing markets for many least developed countries and fish exporters in small island developing States . This is mainly due to the fact that standards are not harmonized and are costly for these countries to meet.

342. Objectives and features. The main objective of the project is to contribute to efforts to build the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports. The activities implemented in 2017 helped in the identification of the key binding constraints on the development of the fisheries sector in the beneficiary countries, as well as policy recommendations on how best to overcome them.

343. Outputs.

(a) Two regional and one interregional workshops were organized. The two regional workshops (one in Maputo for the African region and the other in Yangon, Myanmar, for the Asian region) were undertaken in 2017. These activities were additional activities for the project, which resulted from an increasing demand from member States for the intervention of the secretariat in the fishery sector in the context of the project. The interregional workshop held in Mauritius brought together senior officials and experts from the Asian and African least developed countries, regional and international organizations, as well as private sector and civil society partners. The workshop led to the identification of two regional centres of excellence – Mauritius in Africa and Viet Nam in Asia;

(b) UNCTAD organized a side event with more than 50 people at the United Nations Ocean Conference in in New York in June on the importance of enhancing export opportunities for the least developed countries and small island developing States by tapping the potential of their fisheries resources;

(c) A practical training manual on building the capacities of the least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports was finalized and validated by policymakers and practitioners in a series of national and regional workshops. The manual is available in the national languages of the beneficiary countries: Burmese (Myanmar), French (the Comoros), English (Bangladesh, Uganda) Khmer (Cambodia) and Portuguese (Mozambique)

(d) The project also led to the publication of a policy-oriented research study entitled "Fishery exports and the economic development of least developed countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Comoros, Mozambique, Myanmar and Uganda."

344. Results. Overall, through six national workshops, two regional workshops and one interregional training workshop, more than 401 policymakers and practitioners (including 132 women) in the fisheries sector received training in fisheries sector development. In addition, the Government of China, a major trading partner of beneficiary countries, showed great interest in the project and offered intensive training programmes and study tour opportunities for 27 participants from 3 project countries (16 from Cambodia, 9 from Mozambique and 2 from Myanmar). At the New York event, UNCTAD showcased the challenges facing Cambodia and the successful experiences of Mauritius. The outcome of the workshop was reflected in the final conference declaration.

345. The project further led to the identification of two regional centres of excellence for fisheries sector development, one in Africa and one in Asia, which could offer regular training courses for fisheries policymakers and practitioners from regional least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The centres were identified based on the success that their host countries achieved in developing the fisheries sector, and on their willingness to share experiences and lessons learned. Establishing such regional centres could ensure greater sustainability for the project and allow for continued learning and exchange of experiences on fisheries sector development. A memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the regional centre of excellence in Asia was signed with Nha Tran University in Viet Nam on 12 March 2018, and the first training course is planned for October 2018. Discussions with authorities in Mauritius on a similar memorandum of understanding are at an advanced stage.

III. Theme C: Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

346. Efficient market and effective and development-focused States are indispensable for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Market can play a useful role in the allocation of resources. However, without proper regulatory mechanisms, there are risks of market failures including abuses of monopoly power, negative externalities and inequality. It is the role of the States to correct market failures, create an enabling legal, regulatory and institutional framework and provide right incentives for market players to contribute more effectively towards sustainable development.

347. UNCTAD technical cooperation supports developing countries in fostering economic efficiency and improving governance. In particular, it helps to establish pro-competitive regulations, facilitate trade and business by removing bureaucratic barriers to trade and investment, mainstream sustainability into international investment agreements, and strengthen statistical capacity to formulate sound economic policies.

348. In this section, nine products that have expenditures in 2017 under the theme "Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance" are reported. The reports highlighted main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2017 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to this theme, but not linked with any of the existing nine products in this thematic area are reported under C99 Other.

C1 Voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies

Table C1
Voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
RLA/0T/EAG	COMPAL III	2015–	Switzerland

349. Development context. UNCTAD voluntary peer reviews of competition and consumer protection laws and policies allow developing countries to benchmark their legislative framework against international best practices. They also provide an opportunity

for reviewed agencies to self-evaluate their enforcement performance. The reviews are conducted using an interactive peer review method that promotes knowledge-sharing between competition authorities at the regional and international levels, enhances informal cooperation networks and encourages both North–South and South–South cooperation.

350. Objectives and features. The reviews identify major procedural, administrative and legislative changes that might be necessary for the optimum functioning of the competition and consumer protection authority and the law. They give insights into country-specific constraints, including political and economic problems that restrict effective enforcement of the laws in question. The reviews serve as a basis for peer review examination during the annual meetings of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on competition and consumer protection laws and policies.

351. Outputs. UNCTAD carried out the voluntary peer review on competition law and policy in Argentina. Argentina is the eighth biggest country in the world, the second biggest in Latin America in terms of surface and the third most populous country in Latin America. Despite the succession of economic problems with which it has been beset over the years, Argentina continues to play an important role in the world economy, in particular through its agricultural production. Being a country with abundant natural resources in agriculture and energy, its production is primarily based on cereals, citrus fruit, tea and fruit products such as grapes, representing approximately 10.5 per cent of the country's gross national product. With over $550,000 million in GDP, Argentina is one of the biggest economies in Latin America.

352. Competition law has been in place from an early stage in the political and economic development of Argentina. The Government of Argentina has demonstrated great interest in bolstering competition policy as a pillar of the government's new action, introducing positive changes and adopting initiatives accordingly, such as the appointment of a new president and four commissioners to the National Commission for the Defence of Competition and the start of a legislative process that is expected to culminate in the adoption of a new defence of competition act.

353. The voluntary peer review of Argentina began with the consultations phase carried out by an UNCTAD consultant, which culminated in a detailed report that was commented and reviewed by the National Commission for the Defence of Competition. The second step was the assessment phase. During the sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy held on 5–7 July 2017, there was an interactive exchange between a panel of reviewers from competition agencies from Brazil, Italy and the United States and the reviewed party, based on the findings of the review report. the reviewers advised and focused on assisting Argentina in addressing weaknesses and identifying solutions for specific issues. Questions on institutional issues, merger control and sanctions were addressed. Argentina took the opportunity to pose questions to delegates from other countries.

354. Results and impact. The efforts that are being expended in the sphere of competition defence in Argentina will undoubtedly lead to benefits for consumers (better prices, quality and variety of products), and in the generation of a climate of positive investment by the business community, both domestic and international. UNCTAD recommendations were taken into account for the update of the draft bill in particular: changes in merger control regime, the introduction of a leniency programme and greater sanctions for anticompetitive conducts. In November 2017, the Chamber of Deputies gave preliminary approval to the draft bill and is planned to be discussed by the Chamber of Senators in March 2018.

C2 Business facilitation

Table C2
Business facilitation

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ALB/0T/BCT	Delivering Results Together Fund (Albania)	2012–	One United Nations

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fu[illegible]*
BEN/0T/EAJ	Capacity-building in investment for development (Benin)	2015–	Netherlands
BGD/0T/EAI	Capacity-building in investment for development (Bangladesh)	2016–	Netherlands
CMR/0T/DBY	Business facilitation: eRegistration (Cameroon)	2014–	European Commission
ELS/0T/CBQ	Business facilitation (El Salvador)	2014–	El Salvador
ELS/0T/FAF	Simplification of business procedures	2016–	United States
KEN/0T/EAK	Capacity-building in investment for development (Kenya)	2015–	Netherlands
MCD/0T/EBI	Business facilitation: eRegulations Gostivar	2015–	Switzerland
MNE/0T/FAO	"Delivering as "one", Delivering Results Together Fund (Montenegro)	2016–	United Nations Development Programme
URT/0T/BBM	Delivering as one" (United Republic of Tanzania)	2011–	One United Nations
URT/0T/DAK	"Delivering as one" joint programme on market value chains (United Republic of Tanzania)	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
URT/0T/EBC	Business facilitation: eRegistrations (United Republic of Tanzania)	2015–	[United Republic of] Tanzania Investment Centre
URT/0T/FBC	United Nations Development Assistance Framework II, inclusive growth 2016, Delivering Results Together Fund (United Republic of Tanzania)	2017–	One United Nations
VIE/0T/FAN	"Delivering as one", Delivering Results Together Fund (Viet Nam)	2016–	United Nations Development Programme
INT/0T/6AT	Investment gateway system	2006–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
RAF/0T/FAA	Transparent trade processes in the ECOWAS region	2016–	German Agency for International Cooperation
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD-Trade Mark East Africa Cooperation on trade facilitation and trade and gender	2016–	Trade Mark East Africa
ROA-3331 (AX9)	Support developing country policymakers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks	2015–	Development Account

355. Development context. The business facilitation programme has developed a series of web-based e-government systems to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition improve their investment, trade and business climates through transparency, simplification and the automation of rules and procedures related to enterprise creation and operations. The eRegulations system is a turnkey e-government software allowing administrations to publish their procedures online (online information portals for businesses, traders and investors). Once procedures have been clarified

through the eRegulations system, a set of 10 principles of simplification of administrative procedures helps countries cut bureaucratic procedures and reduce the duration, cost and complexity of business-related procedures without changing related laws. Simplified procedures can then be automated through another e-government system called eRegistrations, which builds online single windows for businesses and investors.

356. Objectives and features. All tools and services developed by the business facilitation programme aim at the following: improving the business and investment climate and legal frameworks; lowering administrative barriers to business development, in particular for small businesses; increasing domestic and foreign investment and promoting good governance and reducing corruption.

357. Outputs. New procedures related to business creation and operation such as obtaining licences, work permits, construction and environmental permits were added to the national eRegulations portals in Bangladesh, Bhutan, El Salvador, Gostivar (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) Kenya, Montenegro and Morocco. The eRegulations system was configured and installed in Benin, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda to present step-by-step information on trade procedures (trade portals) and, an average of four civil servants in each country were trained on the methodology of collecting information and registration data in the trade portal systems. In El Salvador, a new eRegulations system was installed for the municipality of Santa Ana, and civil servants were trained on the use of system by local Salvadoran staff members who were trained by UNCTAD in previous phases of the business facilitation project in El Salvador. The installation of the eRegistrations system was completed in Benin to allow entrepreneurs to comply with multiple administrative obligations through a single online portal. In Cameroon the installation of the eRegistrations system in three regions (Douala, Garoua and Yaoundé) was completed (mybusiness.cm), and a new functionality was added to the system to allow entrepreneurs fulfil the legal requirement to advertise the creation of their company in an authorized newspaper. New modules were added to the Salvadoran eRegistrations system (miempresa.gob.sv) allowing companies and individual traders to register simultaneously with eight institutions online. The miempresa.gob.sv was declared by the Government of El Salvador as the single point of registration of businesses, this means business should no longer go through the physical process and apply for registering their activity from any computer and any region of the country. Capacity-building sessions to train civil servants in best practices in administrative efficiency were organized in all above-mentioned countries.

358. The eRegistrations system of Benin was added to the list of single windows for business registration in the Global Enterprise Registration website (GER.co), a portal that lists business registration websites worldwide. The portal is divided between countries that offer online single windows (for example the eRegistrations system), that is, involving online simultaneous registration with two or more ministries as part of the business registration process, and countries that provide only information portals describing the business registration process (for example an eRegulations system). The portal, which was launched during the World Investment Forum in 2014, aims to promote best practices in administrative simplification, transparency and the improvement of business registration services worldwide.

359. Results. The results and impacts of activities are detailed below.

360. Transparency. Procedures documented in an eRegulations system are completely transparent and widely accessible in all countries where the system is operational. A total of 4,655 procedures are documented in national eRegulations systems, with 18,083 steps (interactions between a user and an administration), 44,646 forms, 4,623 norms and laws accessible online and 5,464 civil servants with contact data. Over 2,960 people visited national and provincial eRegulations websites worldwide in 2017.

361. Simplification and harmonization. As an illustration, simplifications of procedures were proposed in Senegal (transit and import of goods). Several processes were

simplified in El Salvador (on average, a reduction of 75 per cent of the steps and of the requirements).

362. Automation of procedures. The eRegistrations system is an e-government system, designed to set up electronic single windows and computerize simple or complex administrative procedures. It was installed in Benin; in Cameroon and El Salvador its scope was successfully extended to new online services.

363. Exchange of good practice and South–South cooperation. National experts in Benin, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Macedonia, Mali, Rwanda and Viet Nam trained civil servants of their countries or provinces on the use of the eRegulations system and on UNCTAD principles for the simplification of procedures. Experts from Colombia, El Salvador and Kenya presented their country experience with eRegulations and eRegistrations systems in Cuba, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

364. Good governance and public participation. The programme encourages public–private dialogue on improving the regulatory framework and its application by national administrations. Citizens and foreign and local investors have extensively used the eRegulations integrated customer relationship management system for sending simplification ideas or signalling the improper application of procedures. A new concept was conceived to create virtual inquiry points to attend citizens' claims, inquiries and reports on corruption. This new service will be implemented in El Salvador in 2018 and will be installed gradually on all eRegulations/Trade Portal and eRegistrations systems.

365. Collaboration with other international and regional organizations. The International Trade Centre is developing jointly with UNCTAD trade portals on the basis of the eRegulations system in four East African countries and in Tajikistan and is collaborating on the inclusion of country-specific data such as trade statistics and trade agreements in the national trade portal systems.

C3 Trade facilitation

Table C3
Trade facilitation

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/9X/31Y	Introduction of multimodal transport and microcomputer software programmes	1993–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/4CO	Capacity-building in developing countries and the least developed countries to support their effective participation in the WTO negotiations process on trade facilitation	2004–2016	Multi-donors
INT/0T/EAX	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs–World Customs Organization–UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Capacity-building Programme	2015–	United Kingdom
RAF/0T/DAQ	Implementation support for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in three members of the Economic Community of Central African States	2014–	European Commission
RAF/0T/DCG	German Agency for International Cooperation Trade Policy and Trade Promotion Fund	2014–	Germany
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD–Trade Mark East Africa cooperation on trade facilitation and trade and gender	2016–	Trade Mark East Africa
RAF/0T/FAA	Transparent trade processes in the ECOWAS Region	2016–	German Agency for International

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
			Cooperation

366. Development context. Facilitating trade is ever more important in view of the demands of global value chains on efficient trade logistics services. At the same time, many developing countries and least developed countries lack the institutional and human capacity to implement trade facilitation reforms. This is where the UNCTAD trade facilitation programme enters the scene: it strengthens the capacity of the public and private sector stakeholders to implement and modernize efficient cross-border operations, a crucial element in advancing socioeconomic development and achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals.

367. The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation entered into force on 22 February 2017. Building on its previous work, assisting more than 50 developing and least developed countries in the lead up to adoption of the Agreement, UNCTAD in 2017 continued its work to support trade facilitation reforms, in particular supporting the implementation of the Agreement.

368. In addition, many trade facilitation challenges and solutions have a regional dimension. Accordingly, UNCTAD support often includes a regional dimension and activities, collaborating with national authorities and regional organizations.

369. UNCTAD continued to provide support to landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries to implement transit transport solutions.

370. UNCTAD support in the field of trade facilitation includes delivering the empowerment programme for national trade facilitation committees. As per article 23.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, all WTO members are obliged to have in place a functioning national trade facilitation committee. UNCTAD not only helps countries to be in compliance with this obligation, but also to obtain the maximum benefits from a functioning and sustainable committee that successfully improves inter-agency cooperation and coordination, enhances the involvement of the private sector, and prepares the political ground for ambitious trade facilitation reforms. The programme provides a sustained focus on stakeholder engagement and good governance.

371. Objectives and features. The empowerment programme is an intensive professional programme that targets both, the Secretariat and the members of national trade facilitation committees, i.e. both relevant public and private stakeholders. The programme is developed in a series of tailor-made modules, with accompanying advisory services and, if appropriate, a regional dimension to ensure the alignment of national programmes with regional and multilateral trade facilitation commitments. The main objective of the programme is to help countries implement trade facilitation reforms, including the obligations set out in the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, in a coordinated and efficient manner. To achieve this objective, activities focus both on the training of individual members of the national trade facilitation committee, and on advisory services in the institutional setting. Concrete outcomes of the programme are:

(a) Establishing a national trade facilitation committee;

(b) Capacity-building and technical assistance in the understanding and implementation of the Agreement;

(c) Improving teamwork dynamics within a national trade facilitation committee;

(d) Launching a national road map for mainstreaming trade facilitation in development policy;

(e) Ensuring impact sustainability by transferring knowledge with a training-of-trainers approach and preparation of a knowledge transfer strategy;

(f) Providing a sign of quality for donors and international agencies.

372. Outputs. UNCTAD conducted more than 40 workshops on trade facilitation and provided support to more than 30 countries. Funding received for the delivery of trade

facilitation capacity-building and technical assistance in 2017 came from the European Union, the German Agency for International Cooperation (Germany), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (United Kingdom), Trade Mark East Africa and the United States Agency for International Development (United States).

373. Key indicators. These are the following:

(a) More than 40 workshops were held, 30 of which focused on the empowerment programme;

(b) More than 1,400 persons were trained in 2016 and 2017 (about one third were women);

(c) Approximately 85 per cent of the participants in the empowerment programme workshops received certification:

374. UNCTAD supported countries in the draft of:

(a) Legislation proposal for setting up national trade facilitation committees;

(b) Terms of reference for such committees;

(c) Trade facilitation project proposals;

(d) National trade facilitation road maps completed in Benin, Ghana and Nigeria in 2017

(e) National trade facilitation road maps and work plans being developed in 11 more countries;

(f) Knowledge transfer strategy;

(g) Categorization and notification exercises on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

(h) Country case uploaded at the UNCTAD repository of national trade facilitation committees.

375. In January, UNCTAD organized the first International Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, the World Bank Group, the World Customs Organization and WTO. It gathered more than 300 officials from some 70 countries. This major event, which was possible thanks to an impressive multi-agency cooperation, contributed to the following endeavours:

(a) To produce an overview of the implications and implementation requirements for the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

(b) To establish an outline of the tools and good practices for the effective and efficient establishment and operation of national trade facilitation committees;

(c) To find synergies for development and inclusive prosperity for all through trade facilitation.

376. Results and impact. About 92 per cent of participants in the empowerment programme stated that they had improved their general knowledge on trade facilitation, and 82 per cent affirmed that they were better equipped to assume their role as members of national trade facilitation committees than before receiving UNCTAD training. Under the programme, countries developed seven terms of reference, six trade facilitation road maps and four work plans for these committees. In addition, UNCTAD conducted 15 categorization exercises on the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and prepared three support documents for national legislation and four knowledge-transfer strategies for national trade facilitation committees.

C4 ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

Table C4
ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/FAW	ASYCUDA transit module	2016–	World Bank
INT/0T/GAE	Projet d'interconnexion des systèmes informatiques douaniers ALISA/PACIR de la CEDEAO	2017–	ECOWAS
RAB/0T/7BP	ASYCUDA World Regional Centre for Arab States	2008–	Syrian Arab Republic
RAF/0T/DBP	Renforcement des capacités et opérationnalisation de l'interconnexion des administrations douanières en Afrique Centrale	2014–	European Commission
RAS/0X/0DX	ASYCUDA implementation and support (Asia and the Pacific)	2000–	Multi-donors
RAS/0T/1DA	ASYCUDA support mechanism for the Pacific	2002–	Multi-donors
RLA/0T/3AD	ASYCUDA regional support for the Americas	2003–	National Governments
AFG/0T/FAM	Second customs reform and trade facilitation (Afghanistan)	2016–	Afghanistan
ANG/0T/CBO	ASYCUDA World implementation (Angola)	2013–	Angola
ANT/0T/DBC	ASYCUDA World (Antigua and Barbuda)	2014–	European Commission
ANT/0T/EBK	ASYCUDA World (Antigua and Barbuda)	2015–	Antigua and Barbuda
BAR/0T/CAA	ASYCUDA World implementation (Barbados)	2013–	Barbados
BEN/0T/CAP	Mise en oeuvre de SYDONIA World (Benin)	2013–	Benin
BES/0T/EAB	ASYCUDA Regional Centre for the Americas – Tax Administration of the Caribbean Netherlands – ASYCUDA World support	2015–	Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
BGD/0T/BCD	Migration to ASYCUDA World (Bangladesh)	2012–	Bangladesh
BGD/0T/FAC	ASYCUDA World, ASYCUDA support mechanism for Asia (Bangladesh)	2016–	Bangladesh
BIH/0T/CAX	Improvement of the indirect taxation authority's operational capacity through the full implementation of ASYCUDA World (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	2013–	European Commission
BKF/0T/EBM	Formation transit SYDONIA (Burkina Faso)	2016–	African Development Bank
BZE/0T/EAA	ASYCUDA Regional Support Centre for the Americas – Customs and Excise Department of Belize – ASYCUDA World support (Belize)	2015–	Belize

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
COI/0T/FAJ	Mise en oeuvre de SYDONIA World (Comoros)	2017–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CUR/0T/FAY	Strengthening customs management capacity (Curaçao)	2016–	Curaçao
CVI/0T/DAN	Installation de SYDONIA World (Cabo Verde)	2014–	European Commission
DJI/0T/AAS	ASYCUDA World technical assistance and support (Djibouti)	2011–	Djibouti
DRC/0T/DCB	Implementation of ASYCUDA	2014–	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EQG/0T/EAM	Mise en place du SYDONIA World à la Direction générale des douanes (Equatorial Guinea)	2016–	Equatorial Guinea
FIJ/0T/CBF	Computerization of customs procedures and data and deployment of ASYCUDA World (Fiji)	2013–	Fiji
GUI/0T/BCX	Mise en oeuvre de SYDONIA World (Guinea)	2013–	Guinea
GUY/0T/GAI	ASYCUDA World implementation (Guyana)	2017–	Guyana
HAI/0T/DAO	Consolidation of ASYCUDA World and simplification of customs procedures and operations (Haiti)	2014–	Haiti
IVC/0T/4BV	Mise en oeuvre de ASYCUDA World (Côte d'Ivoire)	2005–2016	Côte d'Ivoire
JAM/0T/CBJ	ASYCUDA World implementation (Jamaica)	2014–	Jamaica
JOR/0T/AAB	Creation of the regional centre of excellence in the Aqaba special economic zone (Jordan)	2011–	Jordan
KAZ/0T/EBH	Modernization of the customs procedures and implementation of the integrated customs component of the Automated System of Customs and Tax Administration (ASTANA-1, Kazakhstan)	2016–	Kazakhstan
KAZ/0T/FBJ	Implementation of the single window	2017–	Kazakhstan
LAO/0T/EAH	Implementation of ASYCUDA World (Lao People's Democratic Republic)	2015–	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LEB/0T/5BK	Implementation of ASYCUDA World (Lebanon)	2005–	Lebanon
LES/0T/BDC	Customs management system (Lesotho)	2012–	Lesotho
LIR/0T/8CD	ASYCUDA World project (Liberia)	2008–	Liberia
MAG/0T/EAC	Mise en œuvre de SYDONIA World (Madagascar)	2016–	Madagascar
MAU/0T/CAD	Projet de modernisation des douanes (Mauritania)	2013–	Mauritania
MDV/0T/DAJ	Computerization of customs procedures and	2014–	Maldives

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	data (Maldives)		
MLI/0T/9BF	ASYCUDA World technical assistance and support (Mali)	2009–2016	Mali
MLW/0T/DBB	Implementation of ASYCUDA (Malawi)	2014–	Malawi
NAM/0T/BAN	Implementation of ASYCUDA (Namibia)	2012–	Namibia
NEP/0T/EAD	Implementation of ASYCUDA World (Nepal)	2015–	Asian Development Bank
NER/0T/GAO	Technical assistance project for phase II, implementation of ASYCUDA World (Niger)	2017–	Niger
PNG/0T/DAX	Computerization of customs procedures and data and deployment of ASYCUDA World (Papua New Guinea)	2014–	Papua New Guinea
PUE/0T/FAG	ASYCUDA World (Puerto Rico)	2016–	Puerto Rico
RWA/0T/BBE	Customs management and electronic single window system (Rwanda)	2011–	Rwanda
SRL/0T/DBT	ASYCUDA support mechanism for Asia (Sri Lanka)	2014–	Sri Lanka
STK/0T/CAT	ASYCUDA World Implementation (Saint Kitts and Nevis)	2013–	Saint Kitts and Nevis
STP/0T/CBE	ASYCUDA World Implementation: Single window for international trade operations, phase I (pilot site, Sao Tome and Principe)	2013–	Sao Tome and Principe
SUD/0T/8BG	ASYCUDA project (Sudan)	2008–	Sudan
SUR/0T/BAE	ASYCUDA World implementation (Suriname)	2012–	Suriname
SWA/0T/DAB	ASYCUDA World implementation (Eswatini)	2014–	Eswatini[a]
TIM/0T/DAP	Computerization of customs procedures and data and deployment of ASYCUDA World (Timor-Leste)	2014–	Timor-Leste
TOG/0T/BCN	Migration a SYDONIA World (Togo)	2014–	Togo
TOG/0T/EAS	Migration vers SYDONIA World et formation (Togo)	2016–	African Development Bank
TOG/0T/FBE	ASYCUDA training (Togo)	2017–	Togo
TRI/0T/BDD	Strengthening customs management capacity (ASYCUDA World consolidation, Trinidad and Tobago)	2012–	Trinidad and Tobago
TUK/0T/FBF	Implementation of the Integrated Customs Information System in the State customs service (Turkmenistan)	2017–	Turkmenistan
UGA/0T/BBT	Implementation of a customs management system (Uganda)	2012–	Uganda
UGA/0T/DAZ	National electronic single window system (Uganda)	2014–	Trade Mark East Africa
VAN/0T/EBZ	Computerization of customs procedures and data and deployment of ASYCUDA World (Vanuatu)	2016–	Vanuatu

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ZAM/0T/BDE	Customs management system (Zambia)	2013–	Zambia
ZAM/0T/EAZ	Mineral output statistical evaluation system (Zambia)	2015–	Zambia
ZIM/0T/7AC	Implementation of ASYCUDA World (Zimbabwe)	2007–	Zimbabwe

[a] Formerly Swaziland.

377. Development context. The ASYCUDA programme is directed at reforming and streamlining the customs clearance process, increasing trade facilitation and strengthening the institution in Member States. An efficient and effective customs administration is essential to the welfare of any country as it benefits the national economy by collecting revenue, assists the Government to implement national and international trade policy, protects the country by combating fraud and the illegal trafficking of prohibited and restricted goods, provides statistical information on foreign trade transactions essential for economic planning; and supports international trade needs.

378. The ASYCUDA programme is committed to providing sustained support for development, both in-country and remotely. Over a period of more than 36 years, it has supported the changing and evolving needs, addressed challenges of the customs administrations of 115 countries and territories, and facilitated their international trade. Having originated as a means to help countries build and utilize the data collected at customs ports of entry through databases, the programme's scope has gradually widened to helping countries manage their economic and financial analysis and planning, as well as assisting the private sector in doing business. It has also expanded in terms of the customs management functions that it supports, from the initial data capture (now uploaded via the Internet) to assisting countries and territories in monitoring trade crossing inwards and outwards of their borders, making available trade statistics, measuring institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, and producing data critical to risk management analysis and enhancing the operational performance of customs and its integrity as an institution.

379. As an outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the mandate of the ASYCUDA programme is reflected in paragraph 38 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, similarly as it was in the Accra Accord (paragraph 167). It states that UNCTAD should "continue to provide assistance to developing countries to design and implement policies and actions aimed at improving the efficiency of trade transactions as well as the management of transport operations. It should also continue to cooperate with member States in implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)". The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in document A/C.5/64/L.23, also refers to the programme when it encourages the Secretary-General of UNCTAD "in supporting the strengthening of regional economic integration in Africa by providing, within the allocation to the Conference, technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure" (paragraph 82). In the Doha Mandate, specific reference is made to the programme's work, reaffirming, inter alia, the importance and role of the ASYCUDA programme in supporting developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and in continuing its trade facilitation work. The mandate states that UNCTAD should "assist developing countries, particularly landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries, and some countries with economies in transition, to address challenges affecting their participation in trade from geographical constraints, with a view to improving transport systems and connections, designing and implementing resilient and sustainable transport systems, and enhancing transit infrastructure and trade facilitation solutions"... "continue its work in the field of trade facilitation, including the Automated System for Customs Data programme" and "advise small island developing States on the design and implementation of policies addressing their specific trade and trade logistics challenges linked to their remoteness and geographical isolation" (paragraphs 56(h), (i) and (j)). The

General Assembly resolution 70/1 recognizes "that baseline data for several targets remains unavailable," and calls "for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity-building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist" (paragraph 57). The resolution also makes reference to the need to "support developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data" (paragraph 76). In relation to resolution 70/1, it is worthy to note the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data Software Suite is being implemented in 43 African countries and territories, 38 least developed countries, 20 small island developing States and 23 landlocked developing countries, which makes it a unique possibility as a base repository for the extraction of trade and customs related data to strengthen statistical capacity and to support trade policymakers.

380. Objectives and features. The main objective of the ASYCUDA programme is the modernization of customs, using information technology to speed up and simplify the goods clearance process. The ASYCUDA system manages the entire customs clearance process, from (and prior to) the arrival of goods up to their warehousing and ultimate release, after payment of duties and taxes. It includes an advanced risk-management and selectivity function and strong anti-corruption features. The implementation of an ASYCUDA project in a beneficiary country is based on the delivery of a comprehensive capacity-building programme, designed to transfer the full ASYCUDA functional and technical know-how to national staff and to ensure that the national team will be able to administer and maintain the national ASYCUDA system without external technical assistance and support.

381. Outputs. The ASYCUDA programme continued to allow for increased revenue collection by customs in the least developed countries and other user countries and territories, as well as reduced clearing times and costs. In particular, the Jamaica Customs Agency made substantial progress with the implementation of ASYCUDA World by bringing greater trade facilitation through the new electronic environment for the automated clearance of imported and exported goods, which involves all other regulatory agencies present at the Import/Export Inspection Centre (one-stop shop). It enhanced the revenue collection by at least 18 per cent in fiscal year 2016–17 and allowed for at least 70 per cent of its cargo to be released within 24 hours after submission of the customs declaration. Automation of customs procedures is an integral part of the Agreement for Trade Facilitation adopted at the WTO meeting in Bali in December 2014. Among the criteria identified by WTO in this agreement is the publication of available information, transparency, accurate and timely publication of duties and taxes for import and export, electronic payment for the reduction of clearance times and cooperation between entities at the border. In 2017, Rwanda and Jamaica became, respectively the third and fourth country to request assistance to adopt a new ASYCUDA module focusing on performance measurement within customs administrations and of their stakeholders. It is worthy to note that the project in Liberia, which had been the pilot country for this performance measurement development, was re-activated after the Ebola outbreak; specific assistance was delivered jointly with the World Customs Organization. This performance measurement module leverages customs data (operational and transactional) present in the ASYCUDA system to study operational trends and to enable decision-making. Performance measurement within customs is more than a tool to fight corruption and enhance effectiveness and efficiency: it is a methodology to inspire its senior management to carry out reform at different levels. Further, the implementation of ASYCUDA projects is always accompanied by various reforms and modernization programmes, and a project often acts as a catalyst for improving the work environment and the building of requisite infrastructure, such as telecommunications networks.

382. The technical and functional training of national experts is a major component of the technical assistance projects employed as a tool to provide the transfer of know-how. In 2017, the Zambia Revenue Authority continued hosting and facilitating training sessions of other countries using worldwide experts from UNCTAD. The customs courses mainly covered selectivity and risk management, valuation and implementation

of transit, and performance measurement. These courses assist national experts to establish a sense of ownership of technical self-sufficiency and to further enhance the operation of the system. Overall, around 265 training sessions were conducted, both technical and functional, for an audience of more than 2 [illegible] icipants, in the field.

383. Over 340 advisory missions were undertaken by [illegible] consultants in beneficiary countries and territories. The programme's mission statement clearly stresses the importance of providing technical assistance with an emphasis on the special needs of the least developed countries. Thirty-eight least developed countries, 23 landlocked developing countries and 20 small island developing States benefited from the ASYCUDA programme's support.

384. Results. The impacts and results of ASYCUDA projects can be assessed by various institutional and trade facilitation benchmarks, including increased revenue, improved trade facilitation, shorter clearance times and the availability of reliable trade statistics data. The automatic calculation of duties and taxes results in increased State budget revenue, while reliable and timely trade and fiscal statistics assist governments in planning their economic policy. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicates that data collection is a key activity to develop baselines for the measurement of progress against goals and targets, consequently ASYCUDA exists as a source of data within user countries. However further efforts are required to leverage its use. ASYCUDA has had a major impact on e-business and e-government transactions, making international trade simpler and cheaper, while making international markets more accessible to enterprises from developing countries. In a growing number of countries, ASYCUDA constitutes the core system for building the single window for international trade.

385. The results and impact of ASYCUDA projects can further be assessed by evaluation measures that include projects in countries that are new users of the ASYCUDA system and also projects for the upgrade and maintenance in countries migrating from one version to another or extending functional or geographical coverage of an ASYCUDA system already in place. Since 2009, ASYCUDA projects have contained monitoring and evaluation tools such as the logical framework and its achievement indicators and the monitoring plan. These tools are reviewed at the inception of a project during the mobilization workshop.

386. In addition, the use of the ASYCUDA system by customs administrations contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as explained below:

(a) Goal 1. No poverty: customs's contribution to national revenue through revenue collections, and the subsequent investment of revenues into national development programmes;

(b) Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation, in particular target 6.3. by improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, as customs applies in their controls the international conventions of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm;

(c) Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth: customs makes a key contribution to facilitating trade, enabling access to global value chains, innovation and employment opportunities;

(d) Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, in particular targets 9.1 and 9.c: customs through the use of ASYCUDA, which has always combined state-of-the-art advanced technologies with proven in-the-field expertise, ensures an efficient and tailored support to countries thus contributing to their ICT infrastructure development and upgrade, especially in the least developed countries and Africa, and by improving regional and cross-border infrastructure;

(e) Goal 15. Life on land, in particular targets 15.5, 15.7 and 15.c: customs contributes to protecting society from unwanted pests and preventing the flow of illicit wildlife products by applying health and agricultural policies, and the International Plant Protection Convention; Customs also helps to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply

of illegal wildlife products by applying the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

(f) Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals, in particular targets 17.1, 17.6, 17.8, 17.9, and 17.18, through the use of ASYCUDA system: customs contributes by applying international standards, trade-related agreements and collaborating with other national authorities, countries and international agencies such as the World Customs Organization, to increased efficiency and coordination, strengthened resource mobilization and trade facilitation and statistics which in turn contributes to ensuring sustainable development; in addition, the ASYCUDA programme organizes a multitude of study tours and technical and functional training sessions for customs delegations to visit and learn from experiences of implementing a new technology and/or a new infrastructure in other parts of the world, directly contributing to North–South and South–South international and regional cooperation, ensuring capacity-building and transfer of know-how.

387. The ASYCUDA programme has always aimed at developing sustainable partnerships and cooperation with beneficiary countries and international and regional organizations. During the year, progress was made with IATA in deploying the development of the ASYCUDA module for promotion and usage of IATA Cargo-XML messages to Jamaica, Uganda and Angola; and with the World Customs Organization by continuing participation in its data model project team's work sessions geared to establishing the interoperability of ICT systems. In 2017, a memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Government of Turkmenistan for five years in priority areas, among which the implementation of ASYCUDA World in the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan, and an extension of the existing memorandum of understanding with the International Air Transport Association was signed for another by five years and its scope was broadened in that IATA, through the Cargo iQ interest group, will cooperate in providing assistance to facilitate trade. Furthermore, discussions for partnerships continued with the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Customs Organization on safeguarding intellectual property rights, and with the latter to extend the existing memorandum of understanding to include collaboration on the time release study. Such framework instruments are important for the ASYCUDA programme to ensure the prompt delivery of technical assistance and long-term sustainability of cooperation, as well as for observing intellectual property rights for ASYCUDA software.

388. In addition, a "contribution agreement" was signed with the Swiss Confederation on dissemination of the use of ACITES (ASYCUDA module for international trade in species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) with customs administration systems.

C5 Statistics

Table C5
Statistics

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
RAF/0T/BCR	Projet UEMOA–CNUCED pour la mise en place des statistiques du commerce international des services	2014–	West African Economic and Monetary Union
ROA-1617 (A10)	Programme on statistics and data: Statistics on merchandise trade, trade preferences and non-tariff measures	2016–	Development Account
ROA-1617 (AL10)	Developing indicator on illicit financial flows and monitoring them in Latin America	2017–	Development Account
URT/0T/BBM	One United Nations Fund (United Republic of Tanzania)	2011–	One United Nations

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
URT/0T/FBC	United Nations Development Assistance Framework II, inclusive Growth 2016, Delivering Results Together Fund	2017–	One United Nations

389. Development context. The availability of internationally comparable data is an invaluable tool to inform policy decisions and for international benchmarking in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is true for all areas of sustainable development, but particularly for the areas that are most dynamic, such as trade and economic development. Countries require accurate, timely and relevant statistics that could allow to monitor trends and study the impact of policies. However, compilation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with their complexity in scope and scale, presents a new challenge, especially for developing countries. This will require not only additional resources, but also a more efficient production system and, perhaps most importantly, the development and improvement of national statistical systems and national data infrastructure. Within this context, UNCTAD is continuously taking actions to assist developing countries that have decided to enhance their statistical capacity in order to meet the data infrastructure required for monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

390. Objectives of the product. The objective of this product is to enhance the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders to monitor and report progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on trade in merchandise and services, inclusive economic growth, finance, and other policy areas within the mandate of UNCTAD.

391. Description of activities. UNCTAD provided capacity development on the measurement and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals to government officials and stakeholders from civil society in the United Republic of Tanzania. The project presented was an innovative one, combining both statistical and monitoring and evaluation training. It aimed to support national institutions to develop a consensus regarding the principles and standards for measuring, monitoring and evaluating progress on the Goals in line with local development plans. It was delivered in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar in June and July as a two-day capacity-building package, consisting of a plenary seminar and a technical workshop in each jurisdiction. The activities were attended by a senior and mid-level planners and policymakers, statisticians and economists. This capacity development project was conducted as part of the global initiative, Delivering Results Together, operated under the United Nations Development Group and was implemented in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and local partners (notably the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNRC, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services, UNICEF and the statistical offices, planning commissions and the [United Republic of] Tanzania Evaluation Association).

392. The West African Economic and Monetary Union–UNCTAD project that started in 2014 has the objective of improving the statistical capacity of member countries of the Union to establish a harmonized mechanism of data collection, treatment and dissemination of statistics related to the imports and exports of services. Activities were devoted to the development of a questionnaire to collect information related to international trade in services, and the preparation and execution of the pilot phase, which will test the approved questionnaire in member countries of the Union. This stage focused on three categories of services: transport, construction, and telecommunication and information. The questionnaire was developed by UNCTAD, based on a review of the tools used by national statistical offices around the world, consultations with recognized international experts, and the comments received from Member States of the Union during a workshop organized in Abidjan in December 2016. The final version of the questionnaire was agreed during a bilateral meeting in Ouagadougou in October 2017. The formal launch of the pilot phase took place during a meeting in Niamey also in October. The data collection as part of the pilot activities took place during December and the member states prepared a report, sent to the West African Economic and Monetary Union for consolidation and to decide the way

forward. A proposal for an IT solution was also submitted in2017, with the objective of reaching an agreement and preparing the related material during 2018.

393. To build national capacities to collect, harmonize, analyse and disseminate statistics related to international trade in goods and services, training activities on trade statistics were developed by UNCTAD, in collaboration with WTO, and delivered as part of the Train for Trade Programme. This included a module on international trade in services statistics and it was delivered through e-learning tools and face-to-face activities. Two training sessions on this topic were organized and implemented by the last quarter of 2017: one with a regional emphasis on Africa, and a second, focusing on Arab countries. UNCTAD also finalized a new module on international merchandise trade statistics, with a first training session prepared for 2018. The modules are currently available in English only, but they will also be translated to French in 2018.

394. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Economic Commission for Africa, will implement a Development Account project on measuring illicit financial flows, with a regional focus on Africa. This will be implemented in the period 2018–2021, but preliminary activities are already under way. In 2017, UNCTAD prepared a document outlining a methodology to measure illicit financial flows that improves on existing alternatives. This and other proposals were discussed during an expert consultation organized in Vienna in December 2017.

395. Results. The capacity of the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and other institutions and non-governmental organizations to compile, analyse and present statistical information, and to monitor and evaluate programme implementation was strengthened following the capacity development activities. This was verified through data collected in post-activity evaluation forms, in which the majority of participants reported that they benefited from the activities, that they obtained a better understanding of how national data feed into the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework, and that the knowledge of monitoring and evaluation tools had improved. One of the innovations of this project was the combination of statistics and monitoring and evaluation, and most participants declared this to be useful and interesting and an option to consider for future technical cooperation activities.

396. The West African Economic and Monetary Union –UNCTAD project reached significant intermediate milestones in 2017. These included the adoption of the collection questionnaire, the implementation of the pilot phase and the selection of the IT solution for the project. During this year, Member States of the Union decided to extend the project until 2019 to allow for a more complete cycle of testing and refinement of the statistical system.

397. The first training on statistics on international trade in services had 79 participants (23 women) from more than 40 countries, which is the response to several demands for technical assistance in trade-in-services statistics and addresses directly the Goal 17 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In terms of results-based management, the success rate of the course is 72 per cent, with a satisfaction rate of 90 per cent. The second training session involved 35 participants (7 women).

C7 Corporate accounting and reporting

Table C7
Corporate accounting and reporting

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/BCP	Accounting and corporate governance trust fund	2012–	Germany
ROA-333I (AX9)	Support developing country policymakers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks	2015–	Development Account

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
URT/0T/BBM[a]	One United Nations Fund (United Republic of Tanzania)	2011–2017	One United Nations

[a] Project completed in 2017 or operationally but not financially completed

398. Development context. A high-quality corporate reporting environment is a critical facilitator for attracting investment, allocating scarce resources in an efficient manner, and promoting financial inclusion and stability. In the past decades, there has been a clear trend towards the adoption of harmonized standards and codes by UNCTAD member States. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda has stressed the importance of sustainability reporting by enterprises as a key element in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, effective implementation of such standards and codes remains a challenge for many developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Elements that have an impact on the corporate reporting environment include weaknesses in legal and regulatory frameworks, lack of human capacity and relevant support institutions, or obstacles to the adequate monitoring and enforcement of international standards. As such, there is a need for coherent efforts to support capacity-building in the area of corporate reporting, with a view to enabling progress towards the convergence of national corporate reporting environments with global standards and codes. In particular, beneficiary countries require tools that enable the identification of gaps through international benchmarking, the elaboration of action plans for accounting reform, and the measurement of progress in priority areas.

399. Objectives and features. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) was established with the mandate to assist Member States of the United Nations in harmonizing their accounting practices with international standards. The Group of Experts achieves this by developing guidance documents, facilitating the exchange of views and best practice, and providing technical assistance on issues related to both financial and sustainability reporting, as well as auditing, and corporate governance, among others. This work is conducted through the annual sessions of the Group of Experts, as well as associated workshops and round tables, research activities and technical assistance, such as implementation of the UNCTAD Accounting Development Tool (ADT).

400. The ADT enables beneficiary countries to voluntarily assess their accounting infrastructure, including their national institutional foundations, regulations, human resources and processes, against international requirements for high-quality corporate reporting. The ADT promotes an open and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders involved, which is required for advancing accounting reforms to facilitate investment. It provides a quantitative benchmark of a country's position at a particular point in time and, when implemented more than once, allows countries to assess their progress towards achieving international best practice. The results of the ADT support the elaboration of national action plans and the identification of priority areas where further efforts are required in order to improve their corporate reporting environment.

401. Output. The thirty-fourth session of ISAR was held in Geneva from 1 to 3 November 2017. High-level government officials, policymakers and leading international experts deliberated on two main agenda items: experts discussed the ongoing work of UNCTAD on the selection of core reporting indicators aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework; and also considered issues in the role of disclosure in risk assessment and enhancing the usefulness of corporate reporting in decision-making.

402. During the session, UNCTAD unveiled its working document on a limited set of core indicators for enterprise reporting aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. These indicators draw on existing practice from sustainability reporting stakeholders and companies, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring mechanism. The set of indicators was based on work previously carried out by UNCTAD in the area of environmental accounting and corporate governance disclosures, additional empirical

research in the form of a survey of companies, and extensive stakeholder consultations as part of Consultative Group meetings.

403. In conjunction with the thirty-fourth session of ISAR, UNCTAD organized a technical workshop on the implementation of a selection of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), in Geneva. The workshop dealt with issues in IPSAS, including the impact of changes to its conceptual framework, as well as country-level practical implementation challenges, such as the transition from cash-based to accruals-based accounting, or consistency between systems of national accounts and statistics systems.

404. UNCTAD pursued the implementation of the ADT in Colombia and the Russian Federation. Building on the experience of implementation in 15 countries over the past years, UNCTAD also began to undertake a substantive revision process of the ADT questionnaire. In particular, this revision takes into consideration new developments in the area of sustainability reporting, drawing on UNCTAD research on corporate reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals. The revision also seeks to address the issues of accounting for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

405. UNCTAD also finalized the implementation of a Development Account project to support developing country policymakers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks. This project, inter alia, sought to build capacity on accounting standards to support the financial inclusion of SMEs. Building on previous activities, in July 2017 an African regional workshop was held in Nairobi for intended project beneficiary countries in the region – Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Gambia. UNCTAD disseminated its Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidelines for SMEs – Level 3 (SMEGA Level 3), as well as other relevant training materials for financial inclusion.[14] The dissemination of tools on accounting, as well as the holdling of regional capacity-building workshops, contributed to addressing issues of simplifying credit applications. Participants of the project gained awareness of the fact that adequate accounting facilitates formalization and therefore, there is a need to tailor reporting requirements to the specific needs and constraints of MSMEs.

406. During the year, UNCTAD provided its contribution and advisory to the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the International Integrated Reporting Council, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. These activities enhanced UNCTAD networking and consensus-building efforts among stakeholders in the corporate reporting community, increased public awareness of the role of high-quality reporting in sustainable development.

407. UNCTAD also strengthened its partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme in sustainability reporting, by supporting the implementation of a Development Account project to enhance capacities to manage information on corporate sustainability reporting in Latin American countries. As part of this partnership, UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme made further advances in core indicators on sustainability reporting, and in supporting the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1. A number of companies published sustainability reports. UNCTAD also pursued further coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the alignment between sustainability reporting indicators for companies and the framework of global Sustainable Development Goal statistical indicators.

408. UNCTAD also joined the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the Action Platform on Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, a joint initiative by the United Nations Global Compact and GRI. Building on the memorandum of understanding passed with IFAC, the two organizations structured and began the implementation of a project to prepare case studies on IPSAS implementation, which is expected to conclude with a joint publication. UNCTAD also took part in meetings of the

[14] UNCTAD/DIAE/ED/2009/2.

Professional Accountancy Organization Development Committee of IFAC, which supports capacity-building for the development of the accountancy professional worldwide.

409. During the year, UNCTAD continued to provide required inputs to developing a metadata guidance on Goal 12.6.1, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme as co-custodians on this indicator. It is envisaged that UNCTAD will advance this work in the coming years to testing the guidance and the related Sustainable Development Goal indicators within the framework of the recently approved eleventh tranche of the Development Account project, which aims to strengthen capacities of four beneficiary countries, Brazil, Colombia, Kenya and South Africa, to provide reporting on the enterprise contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

410. Results. For more than 34 years, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts has been providing member States with guidance and toolkits on a number of corporate reporting topics. These products have had a positive impact, assisting member States in strengthening their national institutional and regulatory foundations for high quality enterprise reporting, implementing International Financial Reporting Standards and other internationally recognized practices, integration of the environmental, social and governance information into the companies reporting cycle to facilitate sustainable development and investment.

411. The thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts had over 300 registered participants from almost 70 countries, and over 30 speakers representing a diversity of reporting stakeholders, providing a global and inclusive platform for raising awareness and consensus-building on key issues in accounting and reporting. The Group of Experts is the largest expert meeting of UNCTAD and one of the longest-standing groups of experts in the United Nations. High attendance underscores the sustained relevance of the Group's work in shaping the international agenda in accounting and reporting. The particular impact of the work of ISAR is reflected in its pioneering and leading role on developing core Sustainable Development Goal indicators for companies reporting to enhance the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring mechanism and provide data on the private sector contribution to the implementation of the Goals. Growing support towards developing a benchmark on Sustainable Development Goal reporting by companies is evidenced by a number of international initiatives, such as the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, convened by the Financial Stability Board.

412. Positive testimonies abound. For example, the Deputy Auditor-General of Kenya, Chair of the thirty-fourth session of ISAR, stated that "ISAR is today the foremost intergovernmental forum in the area of accounting and reporting". According to the Technical Council on Accounting, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Colombia, "The ADT has allowed Colombia to establish a rigorous diagnosis of the state of national regulations, institutions and practices, as well as lay the foundation for national stakeholder coordination mechanisms in support of accounting reform". Further, the Head, Regulations of Accounting, Financial Reporting and Auditing of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation states: "Between 2012 and 2017, three rounds of ADT implementation have provided the Russian Federation with a dynamic full-scope assessment of its progress on achieving a high-quality accounting environment".

413. A survey found that 99 per cent of participants found the meeting to be useful or very useful. In particular, over 90 per cent of participants rated the session's organization, attendance and substance as satisfactory or very satisfactory. Similarly, almost 90 per cent of technical workshop participants rated the workshop on IPSAS as useful or very useful. These results underscore the relevance of the ISAR agenda, and the quality of discussions and speakers.

414. Implementation of the ADT has provided Colombia and the Russian Federation with assessments about the steps to achieve a high-quality corporate reporting environment. In Colombia, the ADT stressed the importance of improving communication among accounting regulators, professional bodies and other reporting

stakeholders. The assessment also identified areas for further development, especially in human capacity and in systems for monitoring of compliance and enforcement.

415. Implementation of the ADT in the Russian Federation also highlighted potential aspects of advancing the accounting reform, such as the framework for non-financial reporting, issues in the translation of international standards, and mechanisms for the quality oversight of reporting. In particular, recurring use of the ADT in the Russian Federation evidenced positive developments in the country's reporting infrastructure in the tool's three pillars: legal and regulatory framework, institutional framework and human capacity.

416. In Kenya, UNCTAD pursued cooperation with government authorities, especially the National Treasury and the Office of the Auditor-General of Kenya. This cooperation is expected to lead to further ADT and additional capacity-building activities. The value of the ADT has also been acknowledged by a request for its implementation in Nigeria.

C8 Investment and public health

Table C8
Investment and public health

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
GLO/0T/ABG	Technical assistance in developing countries in creating prospects for the domestic private sector in implementing the TRIPS agreement	2010–	Germany
INT/0T/DCA	Promoting access to knowledge and education in developing countries	2014–	Germany
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors

417. Development context. Pharmaceutical research and development requires investment. In this regard, two challenges need to be overcome. First, while the pharmaceutical industry has developed effective treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, and hepatitis, these medicines are too expensive for developing countries' public health systems to afford. Second, current research and development incentive structures have limitations and need a rethink to channel investment for innovative responses to public health needs. There is, for example, an acute need to respond to the steep rise in antimicrobial resistance, which is especially affecting sub-Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia and Latin America.

418. Objectives and feature. UNCTAD provides technical assistance to developing countries on the promotion of investment in domestic public health systems, in pursuit of Goals 3, 9 and 17. The objectives of the programme are the following:

(a) Development of domestic technological capacities and promotion of foreign investment;

(b) Promotion of coherence between related law and policies, including investment, intellectual property and health;

(c) Assistance in the formulation of intellectual property-related policy and promotion of stakeholder ownership to ensure the sustainability of programme activities.

419. Outputs. The Intellectual Property Unit provided policy advice and capacity-building in its three areas of work, namely:

(a) Local production of pharmaceuticals. In the area of research and policy analysis, the Intellectual Property Unit in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights prepared a human rights analysis of the South African draft national intellectual property policy upon the request of the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa;

(b) The Intellectual Property Unit organized and delivered 10 training workshops to beneficiary developing countries, such as South Africa, Mexico the Philippines, Ecuador, Indonesia and Cuba. UNCTAD also responded to requests for advisory services from the Tripartite partner States (COMESA, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community), as well as to requests from Uganda (national intellectual property policy), South Africa (national intellectual property policy) and Ecuador (analysis of the impact of certain free trade agreements on domestic policies);

(c) UNCTAD also participated in four activities organized by the World Health Organization, WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization, providing technical inputs;

(d) Technology transfer. The Intellectual Property Unit organized and delivered four training workshops to beneficiary developing countries. The beneficiary countries are Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, Ethiopia and Peru. The Unit also commissioned a research paper on the impact and benefits of the possibility of Peru becoming a party to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks and its Protocol;

(e) Investment and policy coherence. The Intellectual Property Unit undertook or participated in three seminars/training programmes for India, Thailand and Viet Nam and provided advisory services to the East African Community, Viet Nam and Thailand. UNCTAD also published the Tool Box for Policy Coherence on Access to Medicines and Local Pharmaceutical Production. With regard to consensus-building, the Intellectual Property Unit held in Geneva an ad hoc expert group meeting on new investment models in health-related research and development, aimed at exploring antimicrobial resistance.

420. Results and impact. Results by country are described below.

421. Uganda. As a result of UNCTAD comments on the draft national intellectual property policy of Uganda, the government official in charge of the draft strategy concluded that the draft "needs further review", that "the UNCTAD comments were spot-on", and that "We are grateful that UNCTAD's comments provided a strong basis for our discussions and agreed to incorporate all the comments in the draft policy before the National Steering Committee embarks on developing the Intellectual Property Implementation Plan and the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)".

422. Indonesia and Philippines. Based on exit questionnaires, workshops in Indonesia and the Philippines regarding ongoing negotiations of preferential trade and investment agreement processes, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement minus one, Belt and Road, and the free trade agreement negotiations with the European Union, were well received.

423. Ecuador. In response to the UNCTAD analysis of the free trade agreement, the Government of Ecuador "seized the opportunity to thank UNCTAD for its cooperation in this area and recognize the great quality and utility of the information received [...]."

424. Philippines. A workshop in May 2016 in Manila on the interface of intellectual property rights, biodiversity and traditional knowledge carried out by the Intellectual Property Unit contributed to the elaboration in 2017 of House Bill 2163, or An Act Instituting Reform in Existing Policy on Access and Benefit-Sharing from the Utilization of Philippine Genetic Resources and for other purposes.

425. South Africa. Following the advisory services provided by UNCTAD, the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa submitted the draft national intellectual property policy to the Cabinet, which endorsed and released the draft for public comment on 26 July 2017. UNCTAD was subsequently invited by the Government to organize another public stakeholder consultation on the policy in October. The policy is expected to be adopted by the Cabinet. The Government of South Africa has already requested UNCTAD support on the implementation of the policy, especially on building the capacity of patent examiners.

426. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. Following an UNCTAD regional workshop in April 2017, the directors of the national intellectual

property offices and the national health directorates of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger and Senegal adopted a set of recommendations to be submitted to their respective ministers, which refer, inter alia, to UNCTAD work on policy coherence for access to medicines and the use of intellectual property flexibilities.

427. East African Community. Technical inputs provided by UNCTAD for the promotion of policy coherence at the regional and national levels were incorporated in the latest version of the East African Community draft regional pharmaceutical manufacturing plan of action.

428. Peru. The World Intellectual Property Organization indicated interest in cooperating with UNCTAD regarding the presentation of a research paper on the impact and benefits of the possibility of Peru becoming a party to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks and its Protocol.

C9 International investment agreements

Table C9
International investment agreements

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/0BG	Capacity-building in international investment agreements	2000–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors

429. Development context. Today's network of international investment rules is multi-layered and multifaceted. The past year saw an expanding regime of international investment agreements (IIAs), with intensified efforts at the regional level. At the same time, a number of IIA terminations took effect and negotiations of some megaregional agreements faced mounting challenges.

430. Growing unease with the current functioning of the global IIA regime and the investor–State dispute settlement system, combined with the evolution of the international investment landscape, the greater role of Governments in the economy and the current sustainable development imperative led countries to reform their IIA regimes. Today, the question is not whether or not to reform, but about the what, how and extent of such reform.

431. Integrating sustainable development objectives into IIAs requires addressing a number of questions, including how to safeguard the right to regulate while preserving protection, how to enhance legal clarity of certain provisions, how to reform dispute settlement, how to promote and facilitate investment, how to ensure responsible investment; and how to manage the systemic complexity of the IIA regime.

432. Objectives and features. The UNCTAD Work Programme on IIAs responds to this trend of reform, aiming to make the IIA regime work better for both States and investors, and more conducive to sustainable development. The Programme covers activities in the three pillars of UNCTAD (research and policy analysis, technical assistance and advisory services, and intergovernmental consensus-building).

433. Mandates. The IIA Work Programme is guided by the Accra Accord, which established UNCTAD as the key focal point in the United Nations system for dealing with matters related to IIAs (paragraph 151), the Doha Mandate, which ratified it (para. 65 (k)) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which calls on UNCTAD to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with member States on investment agreements (para. 91). In addition, the Nairobi Maafikiano reiterates the call for UNCTAD to continue its existing programme (para. 38 (l)) and to continue promoting a better understanding of issues related to IIA and their development dimension (para. 55 (hh)).

434. More recently, in December 2016, the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 71/215, which "encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with Member States on investment agreements and investment policies that promote a better understanding of issues related to international investment agreements and their development dimension, in accordance with its mandates" (para. 23).

435. Outputs. In 2017, the main outputs are outlined below.

Research work related to technical assistance

436. In addition to regular reporting and monitoring on international investment policy developments, the IIA Work Programme carried out research and policy analysis, among others, for the following publications:

(a) *World Investment Report 2017:* Chapter III of the report provides an update on IIA and investor–State dispute settlement-related developments and discusses trends in investment policymaking, including a stock-taking of IIA reform actions taken at all levels (national, bilateral, regional and multilateral), and investment facilitation. It sets out and discusses 10 policy options to reform old-generation IIAs that countries can adapt and adopt in line with their specific reform objectives;

(b) *UNCTAD Reform Package for the International Investment Regime:* As part of follow-up to the *World Investment Report*, and with a view to creating a comprehensive and user-friendly package of UNCTAD IIA reform tools, the IIA Section produced a publication combining the IIA-related policy options from previous *World Investment Reports*;

(c) *IIA Issues Note 1, Taking Stock of IIA Reform: Recent Developments in IIA and investor–State dispute settlements*, 19 May 2017. The note reviewed trends and developments in treaty-based investor–State dispute settlement cases in 2016. It contained an overview of cases initiated in 2016, overall case outcomes and a summary analysis of key issues in arbitral decisions;

(d) *IIA Issues Note 2, Phase 2 of IIA Reform: Modernizing the Existing Stock of Old-Generation Treaties"*, 6 June 2017.

(e) *IIA Issues Note 3, Special Update Investor-State Dispute Settlement: Facts and Figures*, 6 November 2017. This note provides facts and figures on 817 known treaty-based investor–State dispute settlement cases as of 31 July 2017. Based on the recent update of the investor–State dispute settlement Navigator, the note outlines the main features of the 35 new cases filed in the first seven months of 2017, provides statistics on the outcome of over 500 concluded cases and presents new investor–State dispute settlement-related data on dissenting opinions, IIA breaches alleged and found, arbitrator appointments, and annulment and set-aside proceedings.

(f) *IIA Issues Note 4, Improving Investment Dispute Settlement: UNCTAD's Policy Tools*, 23 November 2017. The note showcases UNCTAD policy research on reform of investment dispute settlement, including and the pros and cons of investor–State dispute settlement and other means of dispute settlement.

(g) *IIA Database (IIA Navigator).* The UNCTAD IIA database is constantly updated and contains the texts of 2,772 IIAs (2,432 bilateral investment treaties and 340 treaties with investment provisions), dating from 1959 to the present. The IIA Navigator also contains the texts of 68 model treaties. With this database, UNCTAD has created a "one-stop shop" for information dissemination relating to IIAs, providing users and stakeholders with the latest trends in this rapidly evolving area of policymaking.

(h) Investor–State dispute settlement database (investor–State dispute settlement Navigator). In February and September 2017 UNCTAD completed its semi-annual updates of the Navigator, which is accessible online through the Investment Policy Hub. The updates cover new cases as well as new information on existing case entries (e.g. the subject matter of disputes, the status/outcome of the arbitral proceedings, awards and

decisions issued by tribunals, breaches of IIA provisions alleged and found, amounts claimed and awarded, arbitrators serving on the tribunal and many other aspects).

(i) IIA mapping database. In April 2017, the IIA Section launched the update of its IIA mapping project, resulting in the online availability (on the IIA Navigator/Investment Policy Hub) of the comprehensive mapping of over 2,500 IIAs. The project, started in January 2013, is a collaborative initiative between UNCTAD and universities worldwide to engage students in the mapping of IIAs.

Capacity-building

437. Based on the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and road map for IIA reform, and since June 2017 also the 10 options for phase 2 of IIA reform, the IIA Section carries out a range of technical assistance activities and advisory services. During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out:

438. Advisory services. They include reviews of a county's or region's IIA network; comments on country's or region's model treaties, and other analysis of various aspects of countries' IIA universes. Comments are provided with a view to identifying options for maximizing IIAs' sustainable development dimension. The analysis is tailor-made, considering the specificities of each country and/or region and, typically, the submission of written advisory services is complemented by one or several videoconferences, discussing the analysis undertaken on behalf of the country.

439. In response to requests from States, UNCTAD provided IIA reviews for Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, Libya, Madagascar and Pakistan. In addition, and in response to requests from member States, UNCTAD provided comments on the model treaties of Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Madagascar, Mongolia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Advisory services were also provided in the drafting of the Pan-African Investment Code, and the investment provisions of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the COMESA–East African Community–Southern African Development Community Tripartite Free Trade Agreement. Workshops and conferences for policymakers were also held in Argentina (13–15 September). India (11 and 12 December) and Azerbaijan (24 and 25 October).

440. Regional or other training courses in 2017 include the following:

(a) Training course for member countries of the Islamic Development Bank, entitled "Reforming international investment agreements: An action plan", Casablanca, Morocco, 23–26 January. This was the eleventh annual training session held by UNCTAD for African and Asian countries on IIAs, organized in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the Moroccan Investment Development Agency. The training course brought together 60 government officials from 30 countries. The event was also attended by law firms, academia and civil society. As a new feature, UNCTAD provided a concrete action plan for moving to the phase 2 of IIA reform, with tools for participants to engage in a gradual and comprehensive reform process of their existing IIAs;

(b) Islamic Centre for Development of Trade seminar: Workshop on the mechanism for settlement of trade and investment disputes among Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)", Casablanca, Morocco, 20–21 February. UNCTAD delivered a presentation on enhancing legal clarity in IIAs, with a focus how to avoid arbitral tribunals broadly interpreting IIA provisions in investor–State dispute settlement cases;

(c) Course on national and international investment policies for Permanent Missions, Geneva,18 April. As part of UNCTAD short courses on key issues on the international economic agenda for delegates from Permanent Missions in Geneva, the IIA Section, together with the National Policies Section, delivered a course on the design of IIAs and national investment policies that contribute to sustainable development;

(d) Training on IIAs for staff of the Palestinian Authority, Geneva, 5 September. UNCTAD delivered a presentation to staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of

Palestine, on the work of the Division, with a focus on sustainable development-oriented international investment policymaking;

(e) Joint Vienna Institute Annual Seminar on FDI Policies, Vienna, 19 September. UNCTAD gave a presentation showcasing UNCTAD tools for sustainable-development-oriented investment policymaking, notably the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the road map for IIA reform and the 10 options for phase 2 of IIA reform;

(f) UNCTAD high-level conference and training for economies in transition. "International Investment Policies: The Way Forward", Baku, 24 and 25 October. The conference gave a platform to high-level policymakers from 12 transition countries to have a discussion on international investment policy and treaty making, on international investment issues and the reform of the IIA regime, and on experiences regarding the management of investment disputes. Around 60 participants, representing 12 countries and including academia, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector, attended the event.

2017 high-level IIA conference

441. The conference was organized as part of the Fifth Session of the Multiyear Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development, Geneva, 9–11 October 2017. More than 300 experts, including high-level IIA negotiators, representatives from intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector convened for the 2017 edition of annual high-level IIA conference. Using the road map for IIA reform as a basis, and the 10 options for phase 2 as instruments, experts took stock of reform areas and available policy options. By sharing experiences, analysing pros and cons of the 10 options and identifying best practices, the meeting charted the way forward for the next phase of IIA reform. The meeting recognized that the regime was too big to be fixed by a single group of countries or a single institution. Given the need for a collective endeavour, multilateral collaboration would be key. The meeting also recognized the importance of addressing the interaction and coherence between the national and international dimensions of investment policymaking – an issue that needs to be tackled in phase 3 of IIA reform. The conference featured a combination of high-level plenary sessions and break-out working sessions, coupled with lunchtime events. The plenary sessions were also webcasted.

442. Overall results and impact. There is strong evidence that the IIA Work Programme has a concrete and positive impact. UNCTAD policy tools have shaped investment policymaking at all levels of policymaking.

443. Comparing substantive IIA clauses over time shows a clear shift in drafting practice. Modern treaty clauses frequently match the sustainable development options outlines in the UNCTAD Policy Framework.

444. In 2017, principles and policy options developed in the Policy Framework and road map for IIA reform found reflection in new international investment instruments, negotiating processes at the international and regional levels and national reform actions. For technical assistance activities, positive feedback is evident from post workshop evaluations, individual expressions of appreciation and requests for further assistance. The following are examples:

(a) "We the small economies, with limited human and other resources, owe a great appreciation to UNCTAD for playing an important role in the IIAs reform process. As the key United Nations focal point for international investment and all-inclusive discussions on the IIAs regime, they have assisted many of us with extensive research and analytical work none of us could make individually. We therefore commend them for such good work and invite them to keep it up. To conclude, the second phase of the IIAs reform is vital for the whole process" (Head of Unit, Bilateral Trade Relations, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina);

(b) "The course helped to deepen the understanding of the officials from OIC Member Countries on international investment agreements (IIA), as well as to identify and examine key emerging issues (…)"(Director General, Statistical, Economic and Social Research Training Centre for Islamic Countries);

(c) "Indeed, this was a very successful conference. It was impressive to see how much positive influence the work of UNCTAD has on negotiators and the IIA scene in general" (Chair for Public Law, European Law and International Economic Law, Transnational Economic Law Research Centre, Law School, University Halle).

C10 Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks

Table C10
Competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
ETH/0T/DCC	Strengthening competition and consumer protection enforcement capacities (Ethiopia)	2015–	Luxembourg
INT/0T/DBG	COMPAL MENA	2015–	Sweden
RAF/0T/GAF	Renforcement de la concurrence et la protection des consommateurs en Afrique Centrale	2017–	European Commission
RLA/0T/EAG	COMPAL III	2015–	Switzerland
VIE/0T/FAN	"Delivering as one", Delivering Results Together Fund (Viet Nam)	2017–	United Nations Development Programme
ALB/0T/BCT	Delivering Results Together Fund (Albania)	2012–	One United Nations

445. Development context. Competition law and policy aims to make markets work for consumers, contributing to economic growth and sustainable development through market openness, innovation and economic efficiency. Competition policy complements trade policy, ensuring that the benefits brought by trade and investment are not hampered by anticompetitive business practices. Consumer protection empowers consumers to play an active role in the market, with informed, responsible and sustainable choices, while it identifies and sanctions rogue traders. In a globalized world competition and consumer protection laws and policies are faced with cross-border challenges, which demand for regional and international cooperation to guarantee a level playing field for business and a high level of consumer protection worldwide.

446. Most of the technical cooperation projects of UNCTAD comprise both competition and consumer protection (COMPAL, MENA, CEMAC, Ethiopia) and three significant projects have a regional dimension (COMPAL, MENA, CEMAC), demonstrating the importance of competition and consumer protection policies as tools to promote regional integration in different continents.

447. Latin American economies are particularly vulnerable to anticompetitive and unfair business practices: poor business infrastructure and complex regulatory and licensing regimes make it harder for companies to enter these markets; their policies, laws and regulations are often not sufficiently robust, while their enforcement agencies lack the capacity to effectively detect and address many instances of anticompetitive behaviour; and citizens and businesses are less aware of the importance of competition and do not exercise their rights or fulfil their responsibilities. Latin American markets are fragmented and lack of trust from consumers in regional and global markets discourages business investment. Moreover, in the region, legislations and capacities are weak and sometimes outdated, and financial and human resources in the area of competition and consumer protection are deficient.

448. In the MENA region, there is little trade between neighbouring countries and there is a large informal sector. The region also faces additional challenges regarding good governance and gender equality. The promotion of regional economic integration through improved competition and consumer protection policies, aiming for a positive impact on gender balance, anti-corruption and good governance, is therefore appropriate and timely.

449. In Central Africa, the competition and consumer protection policies are not effective. In order to promote the integration of the economies of the subregion and a competitive regional market, it is imperative to coordinate and harmonize existing legislation in the six member states of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

450. Objectives and features. UNCTAD aims to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in adopting or revising competition and consumer protection legislation and policies, to align with international best practices, as well as regional frameworks in these areas. Competition and consumer protection policies are complementary to trade and industrial policies. They play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

451. The UNCTAD competition and consumer protection policies and frameworks tool contributes to the strengthening of competition and consumer protection regimes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition by developing policy, legislative and institutional frameworks; drafting competition and consumer protection legislation adapted to addressing current challenges; designing institutional frameworks; building human capacities through training programmes; and developing competition and consumer protection curricula for universities.

452. Outputs. In Latin America, COMPAL's work aims to improve competition and consumer protection policies and move towards convergence between the beneficiaries. In 2017, the following activities were organized:

(a) Workshop on digital markets in Latin America, Montevideo, May;

(b) Annual meeting of the International Consumer Protection Forum, September;

(c) Establishment of a knowledge management platform for COMPAL member countries;

(d) Joint training courses for government officials from COMPAL members on competition and consumer protection together with the COMPAL School of Competition and Consumer Protection – Escuela Indecopi COMPAL:

(i) Training materials and one week face-to-face course on consumer protection for Latin American consumer protection authorities staff, with the main theme focusing on consumer education and voluntary compliance campaigns for businesses, May;

(ii) Training material and one week face-to-face course on competition for Latin American competition authorities staff, with the main theme focusing on investigation techniques, November;

(e) Specific training courses and workshops for the judiciary:

(i) First course on the coherence and uniformity in the enforcement of Competition Law in Latin America, March;

(ii) First course on principles of consumer protection, November;

(f) Annual meeting of the Latin American Working Group on Trade and Competition organized with Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, October;

(g) Guidelines to advise companies on the application of competition and consumer protection rules and on leniency programmes.

453. The annual meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition boosted cooperation and stronger coherence between national competition and trade policymakers, as well as between the respective government agencies. It gathered 70 delegates from 17 countries, most of whom were women, from competition and trade authorities to discuss on trade and competition in the digital era and, the impact of non-tariff measures on competition. Participants agreed on the need for constant dialogue among trade authorities, regulated bodies and competition authorities, with the latter having an important role to play in the treatment of non-tariff measures to support the formulation of more effective policies.

454. The International Forum on Consumer Protection allowed professionals linked to consumer protection and public in general to discuss and exchange regional concerns and priorities on consumer protection. The seventh edition of the Forum brought together 80 experts from 10 countries to discuss the relationship between development, competitiveness and consumer protection in Latin America and how to foster consumer confidence in regional markets and citizen participation in consumer protection policies, as well sustainable consumption of food, cryptocurrencies, tools for development and the protection of the tourist consumer. The total attendance of women was significant (65 per cent),and their active engagement was enhanced by their participation as panellists.

455. Under the MENA programme, the competition law of Algeria was reviewed by UNCTAD and the report of the review, including recommendations for the amendment of Law 03-03, which dates back to 2003 and went through two amendments in 2008 and 2010, was presented in Algiers in May 2017 during an awareness-raising seminar organized by UNCTAD.

456. UNCTAD launched and inaugurated the Beirut Regional Training Centre on Consumer Protection in April, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Trade of Lebanon, following the signature of a memorandum of understanding. The Training Centre will disseminate knowledge and contribute to reinforcing the capacities of the MENA beneficiaries in the field of consumer protection through training and dissemination of materials, data and working tools developed expressly for this programme. It will deliver training and support information exchange through courses in Arabic and French.

457. UNCTAD supported the adoption of the consumer protection law in Jordan through expert advice to draft the new text, which was reviewed and adopted in March 2017, in force since June 2017. A national awareness-raising seminar was organized in Amman in July 2017 in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, to discuss the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, the use of standards for consumer protection and the consumer protection competences of the telecommunications and Central Bank regulators. This seminar aimed at raising the awareness of MENA participants working in this field in consideration of the guidelines and the provisions of the Jordanian law and making comparisons, as appropriate, with other countries in the MENA region. Participants included members of Government; members of Parliament and of the judiciary; and representatives of academia, business, the Consumer Protection Directorate and Consumer Protection Council, and of the media.

458. Staff of the competition authorities of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt attended a training workshop on investigative tools for case handlers of African competition agencies organized by UNCTAD and the Japan Fair Trade Commission in Geneva (10–12 July). The workshop included sessions on investigative tools, preliminary investigation methods, on-the-spot investigations and interview techniques, collection and utilization of digital evidence and competition advocacy. It was aimed at engaging participants through group discussions and hypothetical case studies.

459. A study visit of senior case handlers of competition authorities to the French competition authority took place in Paris on 10–12 July. The topics discussed related to the structure of the Authority and of the European Cooperation Network, investigation techniques, leniency as a detection tool and economic analysis.

460. In December, a regional workshop on competition law enforcement was held in the Training Centre of Tunisia, in cooperation with the country's Minister for Trade. The workshop was aimed at presenting, discussing and validating the guidelines on competitive neutrality; and providing training on the definition of relevant market, the concept of abuse of dominant position and investigation techniques based on case studies.

461. A report was drafted to review efforts in the MENA programme countries to enhance synergies between industrial and competition policies in implementing competitive neutrality. It refers to the extent of the public sector in these countries in general and in specific sectors, such as banking, telecommunications and other utilities. It further examines privatization and delegated management contracts and concessions, including public–private partnerships; and the extent to which a level playing field between private and public sectors exists in respect of credit facilities accorded by banks, State subsidies

and bailouts of failing companies, taxation, public procurement, and related legislation, including competition law and price regulation.

462. The consumer protection guidelines on agency structure and agency effectiveness in the MENA region were drafted in 2017 on the basis of the international context and benchmarks for consumer protection and taking into consideration the legal framework and institutional architecture of consumer protection agencies in the region. The main issues covered include consumer rights in the MENA beneficiaries, consumer protection generic law versus sector-specific legislation, the structure and functions of consumer protection agencies regarding resources, accountability, stakeholder participation, as well as international cooperation. The guidelines also address the challenges to consumer protection in the MENA region.

463. Guidelines on consumer associations were also drafted in 2017, aiming for a common framework on these key stakeholders in a consumer protection system. This document discusses the right of consumers to association and the birth of consumer organizations, their role and interaction with consumer protection agencies and other public bodies conferred with responsibilities in this field. It explains the functions of consumer associations and their business model, in light of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and the MENA beneficiaries' legal and institutional framework.

464. The CEMAC project lies within the framework of the programme of support to trade and economic integration financed by the European Union and is linked to the Economic Partnership Agreement of Central Africa, currently being negotiated to create an environment conducive to economic growth, investment and a regional market largely integrated. The main outputs of the project in 2017 were the following:

(a) Fact-finding missions to present the programme to the beneficiary countries and determine priorities in relation to the countries' specific needs, conducted in: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (October and November);

(b) Revision of the community competition rules of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community based on international best practices, including the United Nations Set on competition principles and rules (September and October);

(c) Revision of the draft competition rules (2014) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo based on the international best practices (including the United Nations Set);

(d) Draft of the regional guidelines on consumer protection for Central Africa based on the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection (September and October);

(e) Elaboration of the draft law on consumer protection of the Democratic Republic of the Congo based on the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection (September and October);

(f) Technical workshop to assess and validate the revised community competition rules of CEMAC (November);

(g) Technical workshop to assess and validate the regional guidelines on consumer protection for Central Africa (November);

(h) Review of sector studies (telecommunications and energy), action plan and implementation of recommendations to launch investigations on potential anticompetitive practices in these key sectors for economic integration in Central Africa (September–December);

(i) Regional workshop on the revised community competition rules (November);

(j) Regional workshop to disseminate the draft regional guidelines on consumer protection (November).

465. In Ethiopia, UNCTAD implemented a series of activities aimed at reinforcing the legal framework and enhancing enforcement capacities of the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority and the judiciary, as follows:

(a) Handbook for Judges on Competition Law (February);

(b) Training materials and intermediate-level course on investigative techniques and research skills (March);

(c) Workshop to validate the Cartel Investigation Manual (October);

(d) Cartel Investigation Manual for Case Handlers (November);

(e) Revision of the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Proclamation of 2013 of Ethiopia (May);

(f) Participation of Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority staff in meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition and Consumer Protection (9 and 10 July) and in a training workshop on investigation techniques organized by UNCTAD and the Japan Fair Trade Commission for African competition agencies in Geneva (10–12 July);

(g) Training materials and advanced level course on investigative techniques and research skills (July);

(h) Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority Director General study tour to the Zambia Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (27 November–1 December);

(i) Integrated Market Information System (IMIS) for farmers and traders to easily access prices of agricultural products (December);

(j) Knowledge management system for the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (December);

(k) Case handling and online complaint mechanism for the Authority (December).

466. In Albania, UNCTAD carried out activities aimed at increasing the capacities of the authority, to raise the awareness of the private sector and to improve the knowledge of the Competition Law and Policy in the academia. In particular, the following activities were implemented:

a) Training of Albanian Competition Authority staff on cartels and abuse of dominant positions enforcement, especially on the use of the economic analysis;

b) Seminar with the private sector to enhance the competition culture of economic operators in Albania, highlighting the role of competition in public procurement and the importance of compliance programmes;

c) Seminar with representatives of academia on competition in digital markets, where the market power of big companies such as Google, Facebook or Microsoft, digital services and their network effects in markets, and the new collaborative economies (Bla Bla Car and Uber), using the Internet to develop new models of business, were discussed;

d) Establishment of a library in the Albanian Competition Authority.

467. Results. In order to measure the result of COMPAL activities, an evaluation questionnaire is circulated after each activity to the participants of courses/workshops or directly to beneficiaries. According to the questionnaires, the general perception ameliorates each year. A trend towards regional convergence in public policies of competition and consumer protection is shown by the indicators of new cooperation agreements signed between members and the monitoring of regional activities. Members particularly appreciate the support that COMPAL gives them to strengthen informal links between agencies through the knowledge platform, appreciate the quality and content of training courses (average satisfaction of 92 per cent) and the richness of debate and discussion in the framework of international forums conducted by COMPAL.

468. Training staff of competition and consumer protection agencies and officials of the judiciary system enhanced the knowledge and capacities of agencies to get a better implementation of the competition and consumer protection law in Latin America. Training activities were found to be useful by participants and its content defined as of high quality. Thanks to the replication method promoted by the courses for staff from national agencies, more than 800 experts were trained in 2017, and 100 per cent of participants reported to have improved their technical capacities. As per the course for judges, the activity laid the foundations for the exchange of the different judicial experiences in the resolution of consumer protection and competition cases. 120 judges from 17 Latin American countries received training.

469. Knowledge sharing, exchange of experiences and peer-learning among members was achieved through the implementation of the COMPAL Knowledge Management Platform. Agencies reported using the platform on a daily basis to look for documents and materials as well as for deepening informal exchanges among COMPAL members.

470. The soft law tools elaborated for Colombia and Peru will enhance better implementation of the competition and consumer protection law of these countries. Dissemination in the private sector and academia is planned for 2018.

471. MENA programme activities and products have been very well received. The programme has led to a deep commitment from the participating competition and consumer protection authorities and also raised great interest from other stakeholders from the public and private sector. Since the beginning of the project, all stakeholders involved in competition, consumer protection and gender within the beneficiary countries have been actively engaged in the project and have been exposed to each other views and experience. Thus, the experts and the countries involved are better connected at the national and regional levels.

472. Also, as a result of the programme, the draft laws of Lebanon and the State of Palestine, the competition law of Algeria and the consumer protection law of Jordan were reviewed in the light of best practices in other countries of the world, and more specifically of the MENA region. The guidance documents prepared and validated assist the beneficiaries in the enhancement of their capacities. Furthermore, within the region, twinning arrangements between the competition authority of Egypt and the Minister for Industry and Trade of Tunisia and the Competition Council were established to foster regional cooperation and integration in competition issues. The programme's regional training centres provide a framework to support national and regional policymaking in both fields, capacity-building for the agencies' staff and stakeholders, creating partnerships and setting a common pool of experts in the region. Finally, through study visits and training workshops, the programme established ties with regional organizations and competition authorities and consumer protection agencies of developed countries, to the advantage of the MENA beneficiaries.

473. The revised community competition rules for CEMAC and the draft competition rules for the Democratic Republic of the Congo enhanced the knowledge of officials from the Competition authorities on barriers to competition in the economic integration of the region and measures needed to reduce them. The information provided to stakeholders on necessary legal and institutional reforms contributed to improving the legal framework towards enhancing competitive markets and economic integration in the CEMAC area. In addition, the revised community competition rules for the CEMAC foresees in its article 17 the inclusion of gender parity in the composition of the board of the regional competition authority to be created in this region. If the UNCTAD proposal is endorsed by the Ministerial Conference, which will decide the adoption of these rules, it would be an innovative way to involve women in the ruling system related to the enforcement of competition law in Africa. Training workshops enhanced the knowledge and capacities of competition and consumer protection officials from the beneficiary countries on both competition and consumer protection law enforcement. Training workshops also served to validate the revised community competition rules and the regional guidelines on consumer protection for Central Africa. They provided an opportunity to all stakeholders to discuss, reflect on the existing legislation and its application, and express their views, and contributed to the finalization of the guidelines presented.

474. In Ethiopia, the Government decided to reassign the enforcement of the criminal aspects of the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Proclamation to the Prosecutor General's Office. To address this change and to reflect the recommendations made in the guidelines and regulations produced in 2016, the Authority revised the Proclamation. The revision improved the country's legal framework to deal with anticompetitive practices and better address consumer protection. The Proclamation was revised by a drafting committee comprising of the Authority's officers, judges and legal drafters from the Prosecutor General's Office during a retreat organized by UNCTAD in Bishoftu, Ethiopia in May. This activity also helped build legal drafting capacities of the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority and the judiciary.

475. The soft law tools will enhance better implementation of competition law and facilitate the judicial review of competition cases in Ethiopia. The Cartel Investigation Manual and the validation workshop particularly reinforced cartel enforcement capacities of the Authority. Training courses on investigation techniques enhanced competition law enforcement capacities of case handlers of the Authority. These courses provided an opportunity for staff of the Authority to discuss particular challenges they face in dealing with competition cases with more experienced competition experts. Staff of the Authority found these courses very useful and relevant to their work. Participants were generally pleased with the course content and teaching methods, with average scores ranging from 4.4 to 4.8 of a maximum score of 5.

476. The study visit to the Zambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission exposed the new Director General of the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority to the experiences and functioning of a more advanced agency in Africa, also building links between the two agencies. The participation of staff of the Authority in international meetings provided them with the opportunity to network and exchange knowledge and experiences with their peers from other countries. It also allowed them to showcase the success of the Ethiopia capacity-building project.

477. As for information and communications technology tools, IMIS will enable Ethiopian farmers to negotiate a better selling price for their produce. The knowledge management system will facilitate information sharing between officials of the Authority. The case-handling and online complaint mechanism will make it easier for consumers and businesses to file a complaint to the Authority.

478. In Albania, the results obtained have been very satisfactory for the competition authority, the private sector and academia to improve the knowledge of the law on competition and the best practices on enforcement especially in the European Union.

479. Consequently, the Authority in Albania has recently requested to continue training and technical assistance activities (2018–2021) in order to further improve its knowledge and sensitize all sectors involved in the application competition law and policy. Due to the fruitful cooperation experience with UNCTAD, in the field of competition law and consumer protection policy, the Albanian competition authority submitted another request to follow up with a new project, in which the Ministry of Finance is interested and ready to partially finance it.

C99 Other

Table C99
Other

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
Division on International Trade and Commodities	*Competition and consumer protection*		
INT/8X/603	Training programmes on restrictive business practices (competition policies)	1986–	France, Norway, Sida, Sweden
	Globalization and development		
INT/0T/FAP	Wuhan Globalization Seminars	2016–	China
INT/0T/FAR	Developing countries' vulnerabilities in the current global economy	2016–	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Office of the Secretary-General	*Executive direction and management*		

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/4BS	Strengthening results-based management of UNCTAD programmes	2004–	Norway

Addressing challenges and opportunities in economic globalization

Wuhan Globalization Seminars

480. Development context. China's rapid growth since the 1990's and its increased integration into the world economy have led to the need to examine the impact of these trends on both Chinese development model and its implications for developing countries.

481. The Wuhan Seminar is a training programme jointly sponsored by UNCTAD and the Ministry of Commerce of China since 2006. The programme is focused on the area of globalization and the development experience of China.

482. Objectives and features. The first objective of the project is to support Chinese policymakers in their efforts to further understand the opportunities and challenges of economic globalization, in particular in the context of the deepening of economic integration of the Chinese economy with the world economy, and to enhance sensitivity to policy options at the national level and their resultant economic consequences. The second objective of the project is to examine the impact of economic development in China on other countries and the possibility of emulating some aspects of the Chinese experience by other developing countries.

483. Outputs. Entrusted by the Ministry of Commerce of China, the China–Europe Vocational Training Centre and UNCTAD have successfully held and organized more than 20 international seminars, such as the Seminar on Economic Globalization, the Seminar on Capacity-building in International Trade for Developing Countries, the Seminar on Economic Globalization and International Industry Transfer and the Seminar on Economic Globalization and the Industrial Manufacturing Development of China.

484. Two Wuhan Globalization Seminars were delivered by UNCTAD on economic globalization and the industrial manufacturing development of China (17–22 May), and on economic globalization and international industry transfer (7–12 September). As in previous years, the number of participants varied between 40 and 60 participants (depending on seminars) from a wide range of developing countries and regions.

485. Results. Since the beginning of the project, nearly 800 governmental officials from 89 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Oceania participated in the programme. They were all very satisfied with these seminars and gave positive feedback on this project. The serial seminars have made a far-reaching impact and are welcomed by the participants from those countries.

Developing countries' vulnerabilities in the current global economy

486. Development context. The globalization process and the increased integration of developing countries in goods trade and global capital markets has led to their increased vulnerability to economic shocks occurring in developed countries.

487. Objectives and features. This project was designed to provide up-to-date policy analysis of the impacts of prolonged global economic volatility and recessionary tendencies on policy strategies for sustainable development and structural transformation in developing and emerging economies. Specifically, two policy research papers were requested:

(a) The impact of commodity price shocks on development strategies. Productive policy responses for macroeconomic stabilization under adverse global economic conditions;

(b) The Global Financial Crisis, Policy Response and Impact on Emerging and Developing Countries.

488. Outputs. Final versions of both papers were delivered to the Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in June 2017, and main findings presented to developing country policymakers from Latin America and the Caribbean at two workshops in Caracas in July 2017. A third and final workshop is scheduled for 16 April 2018.

489. Results. Both papers were very well received for their empirical analysis and applied policy design focus, and disseminated by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and partner organizations, such as South Centre.

IV. Theme D: Empowering people, investing in their future

490. The transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It aims to end poverty in all its forms and improve human well-being. The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require, on one hand, sound strategies and policies made by Governments; on the other hand, the engagement of all people from different sectors of society, including local authorities, business and industry,
non-governmental organizations, women and farmers. To support policymaking and the effective participation of people in this new development process, it is essential to strengthen their skills and update their knowledge base through capacity-building activities.

491. UNCTAD has developed well-targeted technical assistance programmes (including training) to build capacity for various stakeholders including policymakers, academic institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and port operators in developing countries. Furthermore, UNCTAD supports developing country policymakers in mainstreaming gender in trade policy and empowering women in trade.

492. In this section, three products under the theme "Empowering people, investing in their future" are reported. The reports highlighted main technical cooperation activities carried out in 2017 and key results to date. Technical cooperation projects that are pertinent to this theme but not linked with any of the existing three products in this thematic area are reported under D99 Other.

D1 Trade, gender and development

Table D1
Trade, gender and development

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/CAI	Capacity-building in trade and gender	2013–	Multi-donors
RAF/0T/ECG	UNCTAD–Trade Mark East Africa cooperation on trade facilitation and trade and gender	2014–	Trade Mark East Africa
ROA-1617 (J10)	Informal cross border trade for the empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in the Great Lakes region	2016–	Development Account

493. Development context. Women are important players in trade: they produce crops, manufacture products, trade goods across borders, manage and own trading firms and constitute a significant part of the workforce in export-oriented sectors. Women have increased their share of the labour force, of management jobs and as entrepreneurs and their growing participation in the economy has been a major engine of growth and competitiveness. Despite all these advancements, women's potential in trade is too often

held back by the many constraints they face. Trade liberalization may be a strong force for providing new opportunities for women but may inadvertently further entrench or exacerbate existing gender biases and discrimination. An in-depth understanding of the gender ramifications of trade policy is therefore necessary to make trade a tool for inclusive growth and the economic empowerment of women. To analyse such problems and offer solutions, UNCTAD has set up a work programme on trade, gender and development.

494. Objectives and features of the programme. Through the Programme on Trade, Gender and Development UNCTAD supports member countries to design and implement trade policies that are conducive to inclusive development. More specifically, it supports member States to assess the gender ramifications of trade policy, identify gender-based constraints that hinder women's beneficial participation in international trade and devise strategies to overcome such constraints and make trade a tool for inclusive development.

495. Outputs. During the period under review, the Trade, Gender and Development Programme assisted beneficiary countries in assessing the gender effects of trade policies, and in devising strategies and policy measures to overcome gender-based constraints that hinder inclusive development. Activities carried out in 2017 include the following:

Training

496. Third iteration of UNCTAD online course on trade and gender (9 January–26 February). The course is part of the capacity-building project funded by the Government of Finland and the Government of Sweden and was based on volume I of the UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender. The objective of this distance-learning initiative is to equip government officials, academics and civil society representatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with analytical tools to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and to produce gender-aware policy recommendations. In its third iteration, the course was taken by 131 participants; 90 participants graduated, including 59 women and 31 men from 66 countries.

497. Online course on trade and gender for the COMESA region (29 May–23 July). Building on the standard online course on trade and gender, UNCTAD developed additional teaching material focused on the specific needs and contexts of the COMESA region. The course targeted stakeholders from COMESA member States and the COMESA Secretariat. Some 80 participants from 19 countries, 44 of which were women, took part in the eight-week regional online course.

Analytical activities

498. Trade and Gender Toolbox: How will the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the East African Community impact Kenyan women? (UNCTAD/DITC/2017/1). The Toolbox provides a framework to evaluate the impact of trade reforms on women and gender inequalities prior to their implementation. It is intended to policymakers involved in trade negotiations, including government officials, but also to development practitioners working on gender equalities. The Toolbox equips the relevant stakeholders with the necessary tools to gauge the effect of trade policies on gender equalities and therefore conceive relevant policies and accompanying measures if negative effects are expected.

499. East African Community Regional Integration: Trade and Gender Implications (UNCTAD/DITC/2017/2). This report presents the economic, trade and gender profiles of partner States of the East African Community within the context of regional integration and analyses the impact of regional integration in the Community on women's well-being with a focus on women's employment. Both descriptive and quantitative analyses are used to this end. The objective of the report is to carry out a stocktaking of the situation of women in the East Africa region in relation to the gender impacts of economic reforms, trade facilitation and trade policy.

500. Advocating for gender-sensitive trade policymaking in the East African Community (UNCTAD/DITC/2017/4). The advocacy document draws policy recommendations and an implementation framework based on the findings of the report "The East African Community Regional Integration: Trade and Gender Implications" The purpose of the advocacy document is to influence gender-sensitive policymaking on trade in the East African Community.

501. Trade and Gender linkages, an analysis of East African Community (Teaching Module on Trade and Gender 4A; UNCTAD/DITC/2017/3). The regional module is part of the UNCTAD teaching material on trade and gender and has been developed with the aim to apply the analytical framework presented in volume I "Unfolding the links" to the specificities of the members of the East African Community. The module draws on the findings of the UNCTAD report, "East African Community Regional Integration: Trade and Gender Implications".

502. Policy Brief No. 53. The new way of addressing gender equality issues in trade agreements: Is it a true revolution? (UNCTAD/PRESS/PB/2017/2). The policy brief attempts to show whether the new generation of free trade agreements that includes trade and gender chapters can be regarded as a completely new approach in the way the trade community addresses gender equality issues.

Events and workshops – Awareness-raising and policy dialogue on the trade and gender nexus

503. During the period under review, the Trade, Gender and Development Programme organized the following meetings on the topic of trade and gender:

(a) The Impact of the Trade Environment on Women's Employment: side event at the sixty-first session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 17 March;

(b) The need for the ex-ante gender assessment of trade reforms: The Trade and Gender Toolbox, side event at the Sixth Global Review of Aid for Trade, Geneva, 11 July;

(c) Transformative Actions to Advance Women's Economic Empowerment: UNCTAD Trade and Gender Toolbox and the Outcome of the United Nations Secretary-General High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, side event at the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board, Geneva, 11 September;

(d) Can gender-sensitive trade policies hinder the spread of the anti-globalization movements? Working session at the WTO Public Forum, Geneva, 27 September;

(e) Making Trade Work for Gender Equality: From Evidence to Action, side event at the eleventh Ministerial Meeting of WTO, Buenos Aires, 12 December.

504. UNCTAD was invited to contribute to the following workshops by presenting the main findings of its analytical work on ex ante and ex post gender assessment of regional integrations in Africa:

(a) Continental Workshop on Trade and Gender 2017. The role of regional economic communities in supporting gender sensitive implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area, Addis Ababa, 31 October, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa;

(b) The Challenges of Regional Integration, Trade Facilitation and Gender Equity for Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1 December, organized by the Institute for International Trade, Australia and the South African Institute of International Affairs;

(c) Webinar: What needs to change to make trade policy work for gender equality? 13 December, organized by GADN-Oxfam.

505. In November, UNCTAD participated in a consultative meeting to discuss the African Union's Gender Strategy that was developed under the overarching goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. UNCTAD provided general comments on the draft document as well as specific comments on several aspirations included in the strategy.

506. Results. The above activities yielded positive and multiplier effects in terms of enhanced capacities to mainstream gender into trade policy.

507. The UNCTAD Trade and Gender Toolbox has introduced a new methodology that contributes to ensuring that trade plays its role as a tool for inclusive development and for the economic empowerment of women. The Toolbox aims to answer the question: what may happen to women if a given trade policy is implemented? Applying the Toolbox methodology to new countries and new trade agreements makes it possible to conduct a gender evaluation that predicts the likely impact of a trade measure prior to its implementation and to put in place the necessary policy measures to offset any expected negative effect. A number of countries have demonstrated interest in having the methodology applied to trade agreements currently under negotiation by their Governments.

508. Through the standard and regional editions of the online course on trade and gender, beneficiaries have considerably enhanced their understanding on the links between trade and gender and increased their capacities to formulate gender-sensitive trade policies. All participants agreed that the course had met or exceeded their expectations and enhanced their knowledge of the trade-gender links, with a number of them noting that the relationship between trade and gender was new to them, and that the course helped them learn more about it. According to the feedback received, the course succeeded in preparing participants to conduct their own research on the topic, and/or incorporate trade and gender concepts into their teaching and policy-related work. The majority of the participants who participated in the standard and COMESA editions of the online course delivered in 2017 rated the course as excellent (respectively 49 per cent and 52 per cent) or very good (31 per cent and 40 per cent). They stated that the course had met (37 per cent and 43 per cent), exceeded (28 per cent and 33 per cent) or considerably exceeded (17 per cent and 24 per cent) their expectations. Two thirds of participants reported that they had acquired the necessary skills to assist policymakers in their own country to mainstream gender in trade policy formulation and implementation.

509. UNCTAD has been at the forefront of promoting policy dialogue on the trade–gender nexus. In 2017, it has provided numerous platforms in which national and international stakeholders have shared experiences and explored policy options on how to make trade and trade policy gender inclusive. Multi-stakeholder events have been organized at the margins of the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO, as well as during the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the WTO Sixth Global Review of Aid for Trade, the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, and the Trade and Development Board in Geneva. The results of UNCTAD analytical, capacity-building and advocacy work on the trade–gender nexus have contributed to the global debate on trade and gender. UNCTAD participated in the conception and drafting of a ground-breaking declaration on trade and women's economic empowerment through the International Gender Champions and its Trade Impact Group and provided extensive support for its adoption. Further, 121 WTO members and observers backed the declaration during the eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December. UNCTAD expertise is increasingly requested by external partners, and its substantive inputs have contributed to the successful outcome of international, regional and national workshops.

D3 Entrepreneurship development

Table D3
Entrepreneurship development

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/BAQ	Capacity-building in investment for development	2011–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/BBV	Strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and	2012–	Private companies

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
	countries with economies in transition		
ETH/0T/DAW	Entrepreneurship Development Programme (Ethiopia)	2014–	United Nations Development Programme
SAU/0T/CBI	Entrepreneurship Development Programme (Saudi Arabia)	2014–	Saudi Arabia
URT/0T/DAK	"Delivering as one" joint programme on market value chains (United Republic of Tanzania)	2014–	United Nations Office for Project Services
ZAM/0T/CAU	"Delivering as one", International Labour Organization-led green jobs joint programme (Zambia)	2014–	International Labour Organization
ROA-333I (AX9)	Support developing country policymakers in the formulation of national entrepreneurship policies through the implementation of entrepreneurship policy frameworks	2015–	Development Account

510. Development context. The General Assembly of the United Nations has recognized the role of entrepreneurship in development adopting three resolutions, respectively at its sixty-seventh (2012), sixty-ninth (2014), and seventy-first (2016) sessions, which highlighted the centrality of entrepreneurship in the achievement of sustainable development and stressed the need for evaluating the success of entrepreneurship promotion policies and impact measurement tools and indicators.

511. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in September 2015, further emphasized the role of entrepreneurship in sustainable development, particularly in Goals 4 and 8.

512. Resolution of 21 December 2016 in paragraph 23 invites the United Nations system, "and in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue to provide support to and assist Member States, at their request, to identify, formulate, implement and assess coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises". Moreover, the principal ministerial declaration of the Conference (Azimio) in its paragraph 17 states: "We call upon UNCTAD to further develop its activities for promoting and facilitating investment and entrepreneurship for sustainable development".

513. These mandates underpin the work of UNCTAD on technical assistance.

514. Objectives and features. UNCTAD assistance in policy formulation advocates a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated approach to identify, formulate and implement policy measures on entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium-sized enterprise promotion. The objective is to help countries design initiatives, measures and institutions that will promote entrepreneurship across six interrelated priority areas:[15] formulating national entrepreneurship strategy, optimizing the regulatory environment, enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development, facilitating technology exchanges and innovation; improving access to finance; and promoting awareness and networking.

515. The second pillar of UNCTAD assistance focuses on implementation, working with national stakeholders, to develop entrepreneurial skills and build local productive capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises, through the UNCTAD Empretec and Business Linkages programmes.

516. Since its inception in 1988, Empretec has been installed in 40 countries and has been assisting entrepreneurs by establishing self-sustained, local market-driven entrepreneurship

[15] As identified in the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, launched in 2012.

development centres (Empretec national centres). In 29 years of activity, 422,000 entrepreneurs have benefited from Empretec workshops and business development services available in the existing network of Empretec centres worldwide.

517. The Business Linkages programme seeks to upgrade the capacity of local suppliers and facilitate their integration into global and/or regional value chains through business links with large international or domestic companies. The programme operates in nine developing countries and has created substantial and mutually beneficial results, both for small suppliers and foreign firms. The programme is increasingly geared to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, leveraging the incentives and resources of the private sector to adopt environmental standards and ensure the beneficial inclusion of the poorest segment of the population, especially in rural settings.

518. As evidenced by several years of implementation, UNCTAD business linkages country programmes allow domestic SMEs, including rural enterprises, to diversify and add value to their production, thereby participating more effectively in international production systems. Country interventions provide support for small local suppliers, for instance, to meet the environmental standards of transnational corporations or develop the entrepreneurial mindset of poor rural entrepreneurs and marginalized urban producers.

519. Outputs. The main outputs in 2017 in the areas of the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, Empretec and Business Linkages are reported as follows:

Entrepreneurship Policy Framework

520. In 2017, UNCTAD provided support to policymakers in six developing countries in the formulation of entrepreneurship policies and drafting of action plans for their implementation. Policymakers, researchers, leading thinkers, private sector representatives in Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Gambia, and the United Republic of Tanzania found the UNCTAD methodology sound and conducive to develop holistic entrepreneurship strategies. Background entrepreneurship policy analysis started in Ethiopia in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

521. In partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNCTAD has analysed and reviewed a collection of good practices and effective programmes for refugee and migrant entrepreneurship promotion, based on the respective organizations' areas of work. The goal is to develop a policy guide to assist Governments and other stakeholders in mainstreaming migrant and refugee entrepreneurship across all areas and levels, to ensure policy coherence and to promote a multi-stakeholder approach.

Cameroon: National strategy for entrepreneurship development

522. The Government of Cameroon completed the outline of a national strategy for entrepreneurship development and action plan in December 2017, and presented them for review and comments by stakeholders. The draft strategy and action plan were the result of consultations coordinated by UNCTAD, the Ministry of SMEs, Social Economy and Handicraft, several national stakeholders, and the International Organization of Francophonie. A study was conducted to gather preliminary information to assess the business environment and national workshops served to identify gaps in existing policies and programmes, and to discuss possible solutions.

Dominican Republic: National entrepreneurship strategy and action plan, and entrepreneurship law

523. In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce launched a national entrepreneurship strategy and finalized an action plan for its implementation. Working groups formed by several national stakeholders were institutionalized in a national entrepreneurship network (*Red Nacional de Emprendimiento*). The consultation mechanism created lobby and pressure groups to generate reforms. Stakeholders reached a consensus to develop a new entrepreneurship law, which was approved by the cabinet in December 2016.

Ecuador: National Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Development 2020, and Entrepreneurship and Innovation Bill

524. In Ecuador, a public–private alliance (*Alianza para el Emprendimiento e Innovación – AEI*) took the lead for the elaboration and implementation of an action plan to implement the National Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Development 2020. Representatives from the public and private sectors provided inputs and contributed to formulate the national strategy and to prepare an agreed action plan for its implementation, with the ultimate goal to make Ecuador one of the most attractive countries in the region where entrepreneurs can start and grow a business. As a result, 150 innovative firms were established, creating over 1,000 jobs, and generating $7.3 billion of exports. Market access by new firms has been eased by establishing linkages with department stores and retailers to showcase new products and enhance procurement by SMEs. Further, 36 regulatory reforms were proposed to the Government and in 2017, with UNCTAD's support, AEI prepared a proposal for an entrepreneurship and innovation bill (*Proyecto de Ley Orgánica de Emprendimiento e Innovación*). It will be submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Productivity in 2018.

The Gambia: National entrepreneurship policy and action plan

525. The national entrepreneurship policy of the Gambia, presented at the ninth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission of UNCTQAD in November, was prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment and the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency. The policy engaged in a holistic approach: different levels of government and external stakeholders examined a variety of ways to create and nurture the synergies between the existing national entrepreneurship strategy and the other pillars defined by the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework. The document cuts across a wide range of policy areas with a focus on women, youth and climate change. Its implementation goes beyond the public sector and its agencies, to encompass the private sector and its organizations, financial and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency is tasked with the implementation of the national entrepreneurship policy and will also lead the establishment of a network of agencies – the Entrepreneurship Forum – as an integrator of public–private initiatives to ensure seamless service from one institution to another and eliminate any duplication. As a first bold step, the National Association of Business Angels was established in the country leveraging links with the diaspora.

United Republic of Tanzania: Inclusive national entrepreneurship strategy and action plan

526. An inclusive national entrepreneurship strategy and action plan for its implementation was launched in December. The National Economic Empowerment Council was the lead institution for the formulation of the national strategy. Under its guidance, representatives from public institutions, the private sector and the academic world, reviewed the results of a study that mapped and assessed the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country. Consultative and participatory mechanisms facilitated the interaction of national stakeholders, who provided inputs and suggestions in the formulation of an inclusive entrepreneurship strategy and in the choice of the most urgent actions to undertake to fill the gaps identified by the study. A popular version of the strategy was made available in Swahili for the large public.

African Entrepreneurship Policy Forum

527. The African Entrepreneurship Policy Forum, organized jointly by the Rwanda Development Board, the Global Entrepreneurship Network and UNCTAD, gave the stakeholders opportunities to analyse the current ecosystem for entrepreneurship in Africa and express and validate policy options related to entrepreneurship. The Forum attracted over 120 delegates comprised of government officials, industry and finance executives, entrepreneurs, sector associations, business development service providers and members of development community. The Forum featured sessions on the six areas of the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework. In each session, key speakers presented best practices and current actions in their countries followed by a group discussion. The event was highly appreciated by the participants and many requested to have such regional forums on a regular basis. A follow-up assistance request to develop regional policies was made by

ECOWAS. In addition, the Global Entrepreneurship Network Africa engaged in collaboration with UNCTAD to develop policy hackathons.

Regional actions to foster entrepreneurship in Africa

528. A regional ministerial round table for Africa on SME and entrepreneurship development was organized in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network and the Government of South Africa in in Johannesburg in March, in connection with the Global Entrepreneurship Congress. High-level participants from 12 African countries discussed the role of SME and entrepreneurship policies in achieving the targets on economic and social development set out in the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, including by building on the synergies and cooperation at the continent level.

Assistance to Ethiopia in formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy

529. UNCTAD has been collaborating with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to assist the Government of Ethiopia in its efforts to create employment for women and youth through the promotion of investment in the productive sectors of the economy. A national entrepreneurship strategy was identified as a powerful tool to ensure nation-wide and multi-level alignment in the Government's activities and programmes through the provision of guidelines and a timeframe to support consistent entrepreneurship development strategies at educational, industrial, academic as well as at individual, community and regional levels. UNCTAD provided technical assistance through its tested methodology and steps outlined in its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework. In 2018, UNCTAD will assist the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Government of Ethiopia in assessing the entrepreneurial ecosystem and organizing consultations among national stakeholders to start drafting the national entrepreneurship strategy and action plan.

Empretec

530. In 2017, Empretec activities carried out during the installation and consolidation phase continued in Cameroon, the Gambia, Malaysia, Paraguay and Saudi Arabia. The Malaysian national counterpart organized four Empretec workshops in 2017 and moved on with the on-the-job training of local trainee trainers, with a view to attaining the certification of its first trainers by the end of 2018.

531. UNCTAD is following up on official requests for Empretec installation from 30 countries and requests for assistance to revive Empretec in three other countries where some training activities have been conducted in the past.

532. Among the achievements of the Empretec network in 2017, under the guidance of the Enterprise Branch of UNCTAD, the following had a particular relevance at the global or country level:

(a) The organization of the fourth Empretec Global Summit, in Johannesburg during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress;

(b) The participation of young entrepreneurs from the Empretec network in a start-up for Sustainable Development Goals session within the Youth Connekt Africa Summit in Kigali, an event organized in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, the Commonwealth and the International Organization for the Francophonie;

(c) The further development of business linkages projects in Benin, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia, with the active involvement of national Empretec counterparts;

(d) The official launch of Empretec in Kenya by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD;

(e) The organization of a second event on a start-up for Sustainable Development Goals in Geneva, during the Global Entrepreneurship Week in November, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Politecnico di Milano, Youth Business International and Impact Hub Geneva.

533. The following section provides some highlights on centres in the installation phase and more details about promising initiatives undertaken by some centres per region or geographic areas.

Empretec in East Asia

534. Four Empretec workshops took place in Malaysia in 2017, under the overall coordination of the National Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Malaysia, the national counterpart of the inception phase of Empretec in the country. The Association secured funding to train marginalized communities and complemented the training component with other services, such as mentoring, market access and pitch challenge. Some 90 participants successfully completed the workshops offered in 2017 and joined the growing network of Malaysian empretecos. The Association has planned six Empretec workshops for 2018.

Empretec country activities in Africa

535. Kenya officially joined the network of Empretec centres in July. The event was officiated by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives of Kenya, and the UNCTAD Special Adviser for Youth Entrepreneurship and Small Business, and founder and executive chairman of the Alibaba Group. The Kenya Institute for Business Training, which is the national counterpart running the Empretec programme, organized an Empretec workshop for a group of women entrepreneurs and an international training of trainers workshop attended by 15 trainers from Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and the Russian Federation. The four-day training of trainers workshop was led by UNCTAD–Empretec International Master Trainers from Botswana, Zimbabwe and Brazil. Among the topics discussed, particular emphasis was put on validating participants' exercises and the trainers' role. Moreover, the workshop delved in issues concerning target groups of beneficiaries for the standard workshop as well as for the revised low-literacy Empretec training.

536. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency, which hosts the Empretec centre, organized since the inception of the programme 67 Empretec workshops and trained 2,245 entrepreneurs. Twelve certified national trainers and 125 advisers contribute to the sustainability of the centre through a diversified range of training and non-training services to local entrepreneurs and SMEs, including farmers. The centre's sustainability strategy includes the establishment regional chapters to reach out potential customers also in rural areas (particularly with the farmer version offered in three local languages), as well as the provision of corporate entrepreneurship training workshops. Empretec Gambia managed to forge positive linkages with local partners and the creditworthiness of beneficiaries assisted by the centre is appreciated by credit institutions. Thanks to the successful job carried out by the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency, Empretec is perceived as the reference for entrepreneurship in the country.

537. In Cameroon, four workshops were organized in Douala and Yaoundé and two in the Anglophone regions. Some 100 entrepreneurs were trained during the reporting period. In collaboration with the National Agency for SMEs and the Minister of Youth, UNCTAD also certified 21 local trainers in youth entrepreneurship, and 300 youth were trained in high schools and universities. A trainers' handbook and a participants' manual were finalized.

538. UNCTAD assistance to the Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, continued in 2017 under the country's Entrepreneurship Development Programme, which was extended for three more years. The Empretec centre continued to provide innovative entrepreneurship development training and business development support services for start-ups and existing and aspiring entrepreneurs. In 2017, 84 Empretec workshops were organized for 3,230 entrepreneurs across the country.

539. In the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, Empretec training continues to be complemented by Business Linkages activities. The number of entrepreneurs trained with the Empretec workshops in 2017 was 87 in the United Republic of Tanzania and 205 in

Zambia. Two national master trainers were certified in the United Republic of Tanzania. Two national master trainers and one national trainer received their certification in Zambia.

Empretec country activities in Latin America

540. In November 2017, the Empretec centre in Brazil (SEBRAE) designed and tested a new six-day Empretec workshop with some updates and changes to the standard six-day format released by UNCTAD a couple of years ago. Based on the feedback received from thousands of Brazilian empretecos and to meet the demands of young and digital-savvy entrepreneurs, SEBRAE introduced the use of design thinking and business model canvas in some training modules, and revised the sequence of the training structure to accommodate other changes in the learning approach. Two pilot workshops took place in two different cities and an informative session with Brazilian trainers was organized by the centre.

541. Conquito – the Empretec centre in Ecuador – started offering the programme in Guayaquil, the second largest city in the country. In collaboration with a Guayaquil-based business support centre, Conquito organized entrepreneurship training workshops that could be further offered in other areas of the city. The centre also certified two national trainers and one national master trainer, thus strengthening the centre's training capacity and providing solid foundation for the programme's expansion. In 2017, the centre organized 10 Empretec workshops for 273 *empretecos*, and additional specialized workshops to 850 entrepreneurs. The centre's incubator assisted 42 small and medium-sized businesses.

542. Twenty-four participants from seven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) attended an Empretec training-of-trainers workshop in Colombia, in September 2017. The five-day workshop, under the leadership of four international master trainers from Argentina and Brazil, aimed to facilitate harmonization of the Empretec training in the region, examined the main aspects of the theoretical basis of the Empretec methodology and went through the major changes brought about by the new six-day version with the innovation module. The workshop also offered an opportunity for participants to discuss how each country approached the selection process and how certain training modules were delivered. The centres represented in Colombia showed a strong interest for intrapreneurship, social and youth training workshops.

Empretec country activities in the Russian Federation and India

543. Five workshops were delivered in partnership with the Russia Association on Entrepreneurship education in Mordovia and the Arconic Foundation in Samara, including a workshop on impact assessment of the Empretec methodology on facilitation of small and medium business in Samara region. The workshops were delivered by the Russian national trainers, with the participation of UNCTAD.

544. Empretec India Foundation has designed and launched an Empretec based workshop series covering cognitive biases, traps and fallacies that often stand in the way of entrepreneurial success. During the year, 14 workshops were conducted, covering 300 high-impact entrepreneurs. Empretec India has also engaged with government administration and the development and commercial banking communities with a view to complementing the state's efforts to bring ex-insurgents into gainful self-employment or enterprise creation through behavioural interventions. In partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and some state Governments, Empretec India is setting up a fund to attract social impact investment in the country. The fund will invest in ETW-trained enterprises seeking to establish, strengthen or integrate into industry value chains, and has already received 'commitment to invest' from a few state industrial development corporations.

Empretec global network activities

545. Sixteen representatives from 12 Empretec national centres attended the twenty-fourth annual meeting of Empretec Directors in Geneva in December. The two-day meeting provided participants with an opportunity to share experiences and new products, highlight the major achievements, and to discuss strategic and operational issues related to the

Empretec programme. Innovative tools on entrepreneurship training were presented by invited speakers from the University of Geneva and the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business. Management and installation issues, harmonization of procedures, partnerships and outreach were also discussed.

546. UNCTAD continued its partnership with Global Entrepreneurship Week, in the context of which it invited young entrepreneurs to pitch business ideas contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, during a start-ups for Sustainable Development Goals event that took place in Geneva, in November. Impact investors provided feedback to young start-uppers on how to promote sustainable and inclusive growth through entrepreneurship. A Tanzanian start-up making reusable sanitary pads from biodegradable cotton won the first prize at the pitching event, taking home $15,000 in equity. The winner is a graduate of the UNCTAD entrepreneurship training programme Empretec.

547. UNCTAD also participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Congress, organized in South Africa in March. In connection with the Congress, UNCTAD organized the fourth Empretec Global Summit, which offered new opportunities to Empretec graduates to internationalize their businesses, create cross-border business-to-business links, identify potential sources of funding and forge new partnerships. The Summit consisted of a master class on international business networking skills and a panel on Empretec promotion; it was attended by 60 pre-selected participants who were able to identify 150 cross border business opportunities during the workshop.

Business Linkages

548. The following activities were carried out in 2017:

549. United Republic of Tanzania. In 2017, UNCTAD assistance in the country continued its support to farmers and processors with a view to establishing sustainable linkages with the hotel industry and the tourism sector.

550. Three Farming-as-a-Business workshops were conducted in June with 105 tomato farmers, in collaboration with the Association of Iringa Tomato and Vegetable Growers, and three others were organized for 70 farmers supplying a dairy company in Njombe. The six workshops organized in Iringa and Njombe were entirely financed by the purchasing companies, showing that they were seeing the value in UNCTAD assistance to farmers.

551. Empretec trainers noted that the standard six-day Empretec workshop, used to complement the Farming-as-a-Business workshops for groups of leaders of farmers' associations and cooperatives, is demanding, particularly for those participants with low literacy levels. In coordination with Tanzanian Empretec trainers, UNCTAD prepared a participant's manual in Swahili, based on its methodology for low literacy groups and tested it in December with a group of women farmers in Moshi.

552. Zambia. UNCTAD and its national implementing partner, the Zambia Development Agency, conducted a number of activities to assist small contractors and material suppliers to link up with large construction companies, under the Zambia Green Jobs Programme.

553. The project assisted 219 entrepreneurs through entrepreneurial and business management skills training during the reporting period. Further, 144 contracts between small contractors or material suppliers and large companies have been facilitated through UNCTAD's assistance. 256 agents were trained by the sustainable company Vitalite, in partnership with UNCTAD.

554. Under the framework of the One United Nations joint programme, the African Green Growth Forum was organized in Livingstone in September. UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre organized an exhibition space that facilitated business contacts and also resulted in some business deals, such as the one concluded between the University of Zambia and an interlocking block making company, or the one between a Zambian company and a Finnish company manufacturing bio-digesters.

555. Results and impact. The Entrepreneurship Policy Framework has been rapidly taken as a reference by several countries, regional commissions and international organizations. Policymakers, researchers, business support organizations and entrepreneurs, endorsed the Framework and the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Guide, and further recognized their

value for developing and implementing sound and conducive entrepreneurship strategies. In light of the Sustainable Development Goals, a strong emphasis has been placed on how to address vulnerable groups, in particular women, youth and displaced people.

556. UNCTAD is actively engaging with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to disseminate and implement a policy guide on entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees. This new partnership with other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations will produce a policy guidance, using a collection of good practices and effective programmes for refugee and migrant entrepreneurship promotion. While entrepreneurship promotion policies will be more aimed at policymakers, programmes and initiatives will be relevant across a wider community. UNCTAD will prepare project proposals to further disseminate its work on entrepreneurship policies and migration, and to assist targeted countries in implementing targeted measures.

557. A growing number of requests for assistance reached UNCTAD in 2017. During the year, field activities aimed at implementing action plans continued in two Latin American countries, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, while national strategies to foster entrepreneurship have been developed in four countries: the Gambia, Cameroon, El Salvador and the United Republic of Tanzania. As a result, action plans for the implementation of national strategies and policies have also started in the Gambia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

558. The participation of a large number of country delegations in regional workshops on entrepreneurship policies, such as the African Entrepreneurship Policy Forum in Rwanda and African Regional Ministerial Roundtable in South Africa, is a clear sign of how UNCTAD tools and the participatory approach are particularly effective in bringing stakeholders together, promoting dialogue and working together to identify challenges, address gaps and coordinate a successful implementation of validated action plans. Many officials and other participants of the events expressed interest on further cooperation both on the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and Empretec, including the United Nations Development Programme Rwanda, the United Nations Development Programme Africa Regional Office, the Rwanda Development Board, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda. At the regional level, ECOWAS and COMESA expressed interest in collaborating with UNCTAD on entrepreneurship policies.

559. The regional and international training-of-trainers events in Africa and Latin America generated synergies and contributed to a fruitful exchange of experiences for new or recently installed national Empretec programmes, particularly towards the harmonization of training material and procedures for the six-day Empretec workshop. They also provided the international network of trainers with unique opportunities to compare different approaches, learning techniques and new modules developed at the country level, thus contributing to the growth and enhancement of their centres. Thanks to their participation in these regional and international workshops, some trainers were then able to meet the requirements for their certification as national Empretec trainers and national Empretec master trainers.

560. Surveys regularly conducted by Empretec programmes in some countries confirm the impact that Empretec has on entrepreneurs. For instance, a recent survey conducted on 213 *empretecos*, who attended Empretec workshops in Jordan, highlighted the positive impact of the training on job creation and entrepreneurial intention: 2.6 jobs were created on average by each business within eight months after the workshop, and 72 per cent of participants who did not own a business before the workshop, started one within the same time frame.

561. According to the most recent impact assessment conducted in Brazil by SEBRAE, the national Empretec centre, behavioural and business performance indicators of over 1,800 Empretec graduates were measured through a country-wide survey. Among the findings, 14 per cent of participants who were not entrepreneurs before the workshop started a business in the following 12 months, and 19 per cent of them fully apply what they

learned during the Empretec workshop. The net promoter score [16] for the Empretec programme in Brazil is above 87, i.e. most of those who attend the workshop make positive referrals to other potential customers (they are called promoters). According to the impact assessment of the pilot Empretec workshop in Samara, in the Russian Federation, in three months after the workshop the proportion of business owners among the participants increased from 62–74 per cent; 83 per cent reported increase in their income; 100 per cent stated that the programme helped them to overcome their key business challenges, with sales and access to new markets as the top priority (51 per cent); 20 per cent of the participants, who had a business before the workshop, reported an increase in the number of employees.

D6 Train for Trade

Table D6
Train for Trade

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
INT/0T/4AB	Mise en place d'un projet de renforcement des capacités de formation portuaire pour les pays en développement (programme Train for Trade)	2004–	Developing country ports
INT/0T/5BS	Coopération entre l'Autorité portuaire de Valence (Espagne) et le programme Train for Trade	2005–	Valencia Port Authority
INT/0T/6AR	Train for Trade trust fund	2006–	Multi-donors
INT/0T/7BR	UNCTAD Train for Trade port-training programme for English-speaking developing countries	2007–	Ireland
URT/0T/BBM	Delivering as One, the United Republic of Tanzania project	2011–	"One United Nations"

562. Development context. With a view to supporting the development of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the UNCTAD Train for Trade Programme proposes tailored technical assistance to best meet countries' needs in key areas pertinent to trade. The Programme aims to develop local capacities and knowledge and skills, to empower countries to reap the benefits of international trade. The Programme promotes national ownership, supports South–South and triangular cooperation and leads to poverty reduction. Specifically, the Programme helps developing countries in building sustainable networks of knowledge, developing trade-oriented policies to reduce poverty and promoting ICT solutions and innovative thinking, to enhance the capacities of international trade players. In recent years, the Train for Trade Programme has enlarged its scope, with recognized expertise in international trade and port management. With regard to international trade, the Programme covers a number of interrelated areas, such as the following:

(a) E-commerce, including issues such as the legal aspects of e-commerce, digital authentication and best practices in the use of e-commerce by practitioners;

(b) Trade statistics, including statistics on international trade in services, international merchandise trade and FDI;

(c) Competition law and consumer protection.

563. The Train for Trade Port Management Programme plays a vital role in supporting port communities in developing countries in quest of efficient and competitive port

[16] The net promoter score is a management tool that can be used to gauge the loyalty of a firm's customer relationships. It serves as an alternative to traditional customer satisfaction research and claims to be correlated with revenue growth.

management. In many developing countries, ports play a key role in connecting them to international trade. Further, 80 per cent of international trade is channelled through ports (this percentage is even higher in the least developed countries). Hence, the way the maritime sector is organized has a profound impact on trade volumes and transport costs and is therefore decisive for a country's competitiveness. Since the trade and maritime transport sectors are subject to constant regulatory changes, it is paramount that port officials be able to grasp the growing complexities of port management.

564. Objectives and features. The Train for Trade programme contributes to work for development-led globalization, where the development paths are sustainable and inclusive, by disseminating international trade-related knowledge and developing skills and capacities. Train for Trade has proven to be very useful and instrumental in connecting UNCTAD research and analysis with sustainable capacity-building activities in developing and transition countries. Programme activities help to facilitate South–South and North–South collaboration and foster communication between trade and training experts. UNCTAD Train for Trade is based on a pedagogical methodology, including training of trainers, coaching and blended learning. It provides countries with public–private–partnership models, sustainable training and capacity-building, talent management schemes and systematic methodology combining blended learning and digital technology.

565. The Port Management Programme brings together public, private and international entities to share expertise and best practices. Talent management and leadership development is a crucial part of the Programme. The Programme operates through three language-based networks (English, French and Spanish) in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Programme also hosts a high-end course on modern port management, which entails a powerful scheme to induce value added solutions in port communities and performance measurement indicators.

566. Partnerships have been established with European ports to share their knowledge and expertise with ports in the South. Annual regional meetings bring together port officials from different countries, promoting sharing of experiences and expertise. South–South collaboration between port communities is promoted as it is crucial for knowledge sharing. For example, exchange of participants is encouraged in order to increase participants' exposure to different port set-ups, as well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge. Furthermore, the beneficiary ports of the Port Management Programme[17] continued to contribute financially to the Trust Fund. This self-sustaining aspect indicates the level of commitment and interest from the national port communities (public–private partnerships). Partnerships and synergies have also been established with regional organizations (Secretariat for the Economic Integration of Central America, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, the Latin American Integration Association, the Association of Caribbean States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, ECOWAS and international organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the World Food Programme, the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Statistics Division. Moreover, the Train for Trade programme collaborates with UNCTAD Divisions/programmes according to the mandates/thematics and requests from beneficiaries.

567. The Programme also offers training-of-trainer courses and coaching sessions in order to support capacity development of the instructors. The modern port management course targets middle and senior managers and consists of 240 hours of training activities, which are divided into eight modules and delivered over a two-year span. The modules of the course are as follows:

(a) International trade and transport;

(b) Organization of a port system;

(c) Functioning of a port system;

[17] The beneficiaries are Argentina, Benin, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal and Togo.

(d) Future challenges to ports;

(e) Methods and tools of port management;

(f) Economic and commercial management;

(g) Administrative and legal management;

(h) Technical management and human resources development.

568. To obtain the UNCTAD Certificate in Modern Port Management, participants must complete each module and defend a dissertation. Many former participants in the modern port management programme become instructors and therefore take more responsibility at the senior management level, thereby also multiplying the effects of the programme. Other indicators of the effectiveness of the programme in the field are the validation of the quality of participant's dissertation by international and regional port experts, and the relevance of the dissertations (about 150 each year) to improve services in the port community.

569. Outputs. Under the Port Management Programme, the key outputs of the French-, English- and Spanish-speaking networks during the reporting period are highlighted below.

570. French-speaking network. In 2017, the network was composed of the port communities of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo. The French-speaking members of the Port Management Programme held final dissertation panels and organized new training cycles of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti and Guinea.

(a) The nineteenth Coordination Meeting of the French-speaking network took place from 4 to 6 April in Port-au-Prince. The participating Director Generals and focal points of the ports of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Senegal, Togo and Mauritania reviewed the activities of the past year, exchanged best practices, and agreed on the way forward.

(b) A training-of-trainers workshop covering modules 5–8 was organized from 12 to 23 June in Port of Marseille, France, with 32 port operators from Benin (two men, two women), Cameroon (three men, two women), Côte d'Ivoire (one man, two women), Haiti (three men, one woman), Gabon (one woman), Guinea (five men), Mauritania (two men), Senegal (three men) and Togo (three men, two women).

(c) In the French-speaking network, South–South cooperation is an essential element of the programme. Members of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Senegal and Togo participated in the jury in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Haiti. Instructors from the ports of Dakar, Douala and Libreville contributed to the delivery of the training-of-trainers workshop in Marseille. Instructors from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Togo and Senegal delivered some courses in other ports of the network. Mauritania, which was the latest member of the programme, received experts from other ports to deliver the first cycle in Nouakchott.

571. English-speaking network. In 2017, the network was composed of the port communities of Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines. The English-speaking network continued to benefit from the financial contributions of Irish Aid and from the collaboration of Irish ports, namely Port of Cork Company, Dublin Port Company, Shannon Foynes and Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Other port and maritime industry entities including terminal operators, logistics companies and cargo-handling companies, and the University of Cork provided support in kind by allowing their experts time to deliver in the programme.

572. A training.of-trainers workshop covering modules 5 to 8 of the modern port management course was organized from 23–31 May by Train for Trade and the Port of Cork Company, in cooperation with Dublin Port Company, Shannon Foynes Port Company and Belfast Harbour Commissioners in Dublin. The event also benefited from the support of Irish Aid. The 28 participants (including 13 women) from the port communities of Cambodia (2), Ghana (4), Indonesia (1), Jamaica (2), Malaysia (1), Nigeria (5), the Philippines (12) and Serbia (1) successfully completed the workshop, which consists of

distance learning and face-to-face sessions. The workshop aims to strengthen the base of core instructors in the Port Management Programme to support the future deliveries of the programme in their port communities. The workshop comprised eight working days. Each day was divided into four 90-minute sessions. On average, a module was completed every two days and obtained the overall satisfaction of 80 per cent and overall average grade of 78.2 per cent.

573. Volume 5 of the Port Management Series Best Case Studies for the English-speaking network of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme: Ghana, Nigeria, Indonesia and the Philippines. (UNCTAD/DTL/KDB/2017/1) is being processed for publication.

574. Spanish-speaking network. In 2017, the network was composed of the port communities of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Spanish-speaking network benefits from the collaboration of the Spanish ports of Valencia and Gijón. The Port Authority of Valencia also gives a financial contribution to the programme. Concrete outputs in 2017 are set out below:

(a) Organization of a training-of-trainers workshop (modules 1 to 4) of the modern port management course in Valencia, Spain from 27 February to 10 March, with the cooperation of the Port Authorities of Valencia and Gijon. Further, 13 port managers (including three women) from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Peru participated in the course. The aim of the course was to prepare the senior managers of the private and public sector for their roles as future instructors to deliver modules 1 to 4 in their port communities.

(b) With regard to the delivery of modules 1 to 4 of the modern port management course for senior and middle port managers of port communities, an instructor workshop for the Spanish-speaking network was held in Lima in February; the fifth cycle of the Port Management Programme was launched in Peru; the first cycle was launched in the Plurinational State of Bolivia on 26 April and modules 3 and 4 were delivered in Argentina in 2017. These modules were delivered by international experts and local trainers (trained by Train for Trade).

(c) The first cycle of the Port Management Programme was launched in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and module 1 of the modern port management course delivered for 27 seniors and middle port managers (including three women) from the public and private sectors.

575. The eleventh meeting of the UNCTAD Advisory Group: Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Computerization and Technological Solutions in Ports was held in at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, on 27 and 28 June. Representatives from UNCTAD, Dublin Port Company, Port of Cork Company, Port of Valencia, Valencia Fundacion and the Port of Marseille, took part in this session and contributed through presentations and exchanges on the existing structure of submodule 5c of the modern port management course of the Port Management Programme. The discussion focused on updating the course material by injecting new best practices and emerging technological solutions that are relevant for port communities worldwide.

576. In addition to the Port Management Programme, Train for Trade also delivered several online courses, including a distance-learning course on e-commerce and best practices in Spanish financed by the permanent secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System for 155 participants (74 women or 48 per cent women) from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries from 2 to 31 May. The overall satisfaction rate was 90.65 per cent. This activity has been organized in the framework of the e-commerce programme implemented since 2007 with regional organizations (Association of Caribbean States, the Latin American Integration Association and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System).

577. Train for Trade delivered another online course and contributed to Institutional collaboration on Trade in Services Statistics (SITS), which was organized from

9–13 October. The Train for Trade worldwide online course SITS with emphasis on Africa, organized in collaboration with UNCTAD Statistics and WTO have more than 50 participants from the African Union, and specifically from the Continental Free Trade Area. Overall, 79 participants (23 women) from more than 40 countries are taking part in the distance-learning course, which is the response to several demands for technical assistance in trade-in-services statistics and addresses directly the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 17. In terms of results-based management, the success rate of the course is 72 per cent, with a satisfaction rate of 90 per cent.

578. Moreover, the Train for Trade worldwide online course on Trade in Services Statistics for Arab Countries, in collaboration with UNCTAD Statistics, WTO and the Arab Monetary Fund was organized from 2 October to 3 November. Thirty-five people (7 women) from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunis, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania took part in the course.

579. Train for Trade delivered the course on e-commerce best practices for Madagascar from 9 October to 10 November, organized by the UNCTAD e-commerce and law reform programme, in collaboration with the World Bank, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Justice, the Chamber of Commerce and the Committee for E-commerce development of Madagascar. More than 100 Malagasy participants from the judiciary, Government and the private sector took part in the training course. The course focused on the importance of building trust online and increasing the understanding on relevant e-commerce issues among all stakeholders. This activity is part of capacity-building activities planned in Madagascar that are sponsored by the Government of Finland.

580. Results. In 2017, the key facts of the programme were the following:

(a) Four port networks (Portuguese-, Spanish-, French- and English-speaking);

(b) Advisory support and services involving 34 countries and over 200 port community entities;

(c) 3,331 port managers trained;

(d) 90 national training and capacity-building cycles;

(e) 77 workshops for the training of trainers;

(f) 1,279 UNCTAD port certificates delivered.

581. The active member ports of the Port Management Programme are Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal and Togo. More concrete results of the Train for Trade Port Management Programme were summarized below.

582. French -speaking network. Since the beginning of the French-speaking network, 1,087 port operators have been trained with 24 per cent women, which, compared with the port industry is a very good score. Further, 660 trainers have been certified by the Programme.

(a) At the end of the nineteenth Coordination Meeting in Port-au-Prince, the nine members of the French-speaking network presented an activity report for 2016. Representatives discussed the actions carried out for the recommendations in 2016 and proposed new recommendations for 2017, as well as the planning for the upcoming twentieth Coordination Meeting to be held in Geneva in April 2018. There were 19 participants (with three women) during the Coordination Meeting.

(b) The vast majority of participants of the Training-of-Trainers Workshop in Marseille considered the organization of training good or very good. Most participants felt that the approach used to teach the modules was effective and that the quality of the training material was good or very good. The content of the modules was evaluated as good or very good by a large majority of participants. Participants particularly enjoyed discussions and exchanges among themselves, as well as audiovisual media used such as slides, videos and port visits.

(c) The training-of-trainers workshop of Marseille was evaluated very positively (satisfaction indicator: 87 per cent) by its participants in terms of subject matter and depth, teaching method, time allocated and exercises given. All participants trained have to deliver in the next two years' part of the Port Certificate in their respective countries.

583. English speaking network. At the end of the Training-of-Trainers Workshop in Dublin, 96 per cent of the participants felt that the course was well organized, the training methodology was effective and appreciated the quality of visual aids; 70 per cent of the participants agreed that the time allocated for the workshop was appropriate; 87 per cent of the participants felt that the workshop had an appropriate number of participants to allow effective interaction and enhance learning; 91 per cent indicated that they were satisfied with the accuracy and clarity of the training materials, and the depth to which the topics were explored.

584. Spanish-speaking network.

(a) The instructors trained by Train for Trade in the training-of-trainers workshop participated in the delivery of the modules 5 to 8 of the course on modern port management in Argentina, Peru and the Dominican Republic, which clearly shows a multiplier effect in the capacity-building process of the member ports. It is also important to highlight that some participants from previous cycles have now reached higher positions of responsibilities in their port communities and they are supporting the programme;

(b) Eleven participants from the Dominican Republic and 13 participants from Peru presented their final work and obtained the UNCTAD certificate. The final dissertations aimed to identify a problem in the port community and to propose a feasible solution. Some of these projects are being implemented to improve ports' efficiency;

(c) The International Coordination Meeting concluded with a positive evaluation of the Port Management Programme in terms of the effectiveness, sustainability, South–South cooperation dynamics and impact. The meeting concluded with a work plan for the fifth cycle in Peru, the third cycle in the Dominican Republic and the launching of the programme in Argentina and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The countries also confirmed their financial contribution for the launching of the new cycles;

(d) Twenty-two participants from Argentina enhanced their knowledge and competences on issues related to international trade and maritime transport, and the organization of a port system. The modules were evaluated by the participants with a 95 per cent satisfaction rate.

D99 Other

Table D99
Other

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
Office of the Secretary-General	*Executive direction and management*		
GLO/0T/ABA	Support and capacity-building for the Group of 77 countries	2010–	China
INT/0T/1AK	Financing of participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD expert group meetings	2001–	Multi-donors

Project number	*Short title*	*Period covered*	*Source of fund*
Division on Globalization and Development Strategies	*Globalization and development strategies*		
INT/0T/6AP	Trust Fund for the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development	2006–	Canada, Finland
Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes	*Strengthening support for trade mainstreaming*		
ANG/0T/FBK	European Union–UNCTAD Joint Programme Train for Trade II	2017–	European Commission

1. Management and coordination

585. The trust fund for the financing of experts attending UNCTAD expert meetings was used to finance the travel of 25 experts from developing countries to enable them to participate in one of the multi-year expert meetings or to the single-ear expert meeting held in Geneva in 2017.

2. Virtual Institute

586. Development context. The capacities of developing countries to undertake economic analysis, formulate national policies and implement them to achieve their development objectives is lacking in many respects. Universities and research centres can play an essential role in building such capacities, as they educate future decision-makers and can provide analytical inputs to inform their Governments' economic policy decisions.

587. Objectives and features. The Virtual Institute, UNCTAD capacity-building and networking programme for academia, works with academic institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their teaching and research in international trade and development issues, and to increase the policy orientation and relevance of their work.

588. Outputs. In 2017, one new academic institution from Turkey joined the Virtual Institute, extending the reach of the network to 135 universities and research centres from 64 countries, including 15 least developed countries. The Institute continued to provide its member institutions with services in three areas: support to teaching, professional development for academics and facilitation of cooperation among the members of its academic network and dissemination of UNCTAD research to the academic community. During the period under review, the Institute received financial support from the Government of Finland.

589. The Institute published one new teaching material on structural transformation and industrial policy. It also co-published a book with WTO, entitled "*An Advanced Guide to Trade Policy Analysis: The Structural Gravity Model*". Further, one national professional development workshop trained 35 researchers in Burundi on the use of econometric tools for the analysis of commodity-related issues.

590. Three online courses graduated 255 researchers and practitioners, 128 of which were women, from more than 50 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In three study tours and visits, 72 students from three countries and six universities received training. Libraries at member institutions of the Virtual Institute were enriched with more than 2,000 UNCTAD research reports and Virtual Institute teaching resources. Finally, three videoconferences presented UNCTAD research findings to 232 university students and lecturers from three countries.

591. Results. The Virtual Institute contributed to enhanced teaching and research on trade and development issues at member institutions and increased policy orientation of their work by providing support for the development of both individual and institutional capacities in this area. The multiplier effect of Virtual Institute workshops and online courses, videoconferences and study tours, as well as the distribution of UNCTAD publications embedded the organization's research and perspective in graduate programmes at numerous universities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

3. Course on key issues on the international economic agenda – Paragraph 166

592. Development context. Paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action was adopted at the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, calling on it to strengthen its capacity-building activities, particularly through training courses on key trade and development matters. The paragraph also underlines that these training courses would draw on the expertise and policy analysis work of the UNCTAD secretariat. This mandate was renewed by the Sao Paulo Consensus, the Accra Accord, the Doha Declaration, and most recently reaffirmed at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi.

593. Located in the Knowledge Development Branch of the Division on Technology and Logistics, the Policy Capacity-building Section delivers the courses on key issues on the international economic agenda, known as Paragraph 166 courses. The Programme delivers the short courses (half-day) for Geneva-based delegates and regional courses for the five developing regions. The beneficiaries are mainly mid-government officials working for relevant public institutions. All nominations are received directly from the Permanent Missions to the United Nation based in Geneva, although the primary beneficiaries are mid-level officials, and others are also considered such as academics.

594. The regional courses are part of the mandate of UNCTAD and are cross-divisional in terms of content. The curriculum is designed and developed by Policy Capacity-building Section of the Knowledge Development Branch, in collaboration with the experts from various Divisions. During the design phase, collaboration is also sought with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and with national experts to ensure coherence among the various themes of the economic policy framework. Ranging from economic theories to trade policy, FDI, among others, the programme focuses on sustainable development as a central theme. In illustrating how economic policies have an impact, the curriculum is integrated and showcases the various models of development.

595. Additionally, the curricula in 2017 continued to illustrate the formulation of national and international development policies and strategies and how they are placed within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, providing the overall framework for development policies in the 2015–2030 period. The training comprises a number of lectures on economic, trade and finance theories and their relevance to policy development, the role of investment and technology, along with detailed case studies and lessons learned from previous policy decisions. It is designed to promote critical thinking, with emphasis placed on policy design, coherence, coordination, implementation and measurement. Central to the course are policy development and simulation exercises, examinations and critiques of best practices in policy development, group work and debates.

596. Objectives and features. The overall curricula of the regional course include the overall themes and a fully integrated and interrelated approach to several substantive topics developed in the research work of UNCTAD. Additionally, it is adapted to each developing region and contributes to knowledge development and the understanding of contemporary economic issues among trade policy officials, finance and investment experts and academics who work in these areas. This generates a curriculum for each region focused on the development of appropriate trade, finance, investment and innovation policies that are critical to achieve economic gains, which in parallel meets the development objectives of participating countries.

597. Achieving macroeconomic stability, with a sound monetary and fiscal regime, is paramount to the design of and support for development objectives. Policymakers are encouraged to consider sound fiscal policies to support such initiatives in a changing global environment. The need to stimulate productive investment, develop local markets and promote diversification will require adopting relevant industrial policies. This also suggests that public investment itself should target increasing human capital and providing infrastructure development. The importance of developing a relevant industrial policy is key to the concept of developing and implementing policies to attract and embed FDI. This can benefit SMEs through business linkages, the development of regional and global value chains and the development of know-how. Science and technology issues that impact innovation in agriculture, energy and other areas and their role in providing value added to products that have domestic and international appeal are also illustrated in the curricula. Remaining competitive, whether in promoting domestic activity or in export-oriented sectors, for example, is crucial to ensuring long-term economic growth. The curricula also focus on the importance of logistics to facilitate trade to ensure sustainable exports and imports. Trade negotiations, whether at the multilateral, regional or bilateral levels, that directly generate benefits from trade and investment and bring development gains are an essential part of the course.

598. In 2017, both face-to-face instruction and distance learning were delivered as part of the UNCTAD regional courses. An e-learning module on the history of UNCTAD continued to be utilized to prepare selected participants ahead of the regional course. The module is divided into four parts, covering comprehensive knowledge of the historiy of history, its three pillars of work and structure, the role of UNCTAD and other international organizations, and UNCTAD achievements and contributions. The module includes quizzes and a final assessment. Selected participants must successfully pass the final assessment as a prerequisite to the face-to-face sessions later scheduled in the respective host countries. This module enhances participants' knowledge of UNCTAD and its mandate, including contributions and achievements.

599. Outputs. In 2017, three regional courses were coordinated and delivered for Africa (Mauritius, February and March), for Latin American and the Caribbean (Colombia, July and August), and for Asia and the Pacific (Singapore, November and December). A total of 71 policymakers and academics, from 35 countries, completed the courses. Among all participants, 47.5 per cent were women.

600. The multi-year venue continued to be an innovative way of raising support, gaining experiences from various economies and enhancing bilateral cooperation at the country level. It is a key indicator of the support that member States afford the flagship course, as they illustrate the significant support provided to the United Nations Secretariat, both in terms of financial and human resources. The contribution of national experts in shedding light on the national and regional experience is of significance to the programme's curricula in enhancing knowledge and boosting human capital among policymakers. In 2017, Egypt submitted a proposal for hosting the course for Arab economies from 2018–2022. This provides an illustration for how the multi-year venues continue to gain momentum and support the programme in all five developing regions for the Policy Capacity-building Section/166 programme. In 2017, the multi-venue for the three regional courses were as follows:

(a) University of Mauritius, courses from 2013 to 2017 for African economies;

(b) EAFIT University, Medellin, Colombia, courses from 2015 to 2019 for the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) Cooperation Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, courses from 2015 to 2019 for Asia and the Pacific economies.

601. The short courses continued to update Geneva-based delegates on the most recent research and developments on the international economic agenda, from the UNCTAD perspective. In cooperation with several divisions of UNCTAD, six short editions were offered in the spring and fall of 2017 on the following:

(a) Trade regulation in the twenty-first century: Non-tariff measures, trade costs and sustainable development (17 March);

(b) Investment policymaking for sustainable development (18 April);

(c) The process and consequences of graduation from the least developed country category (19 May);

(d) Gender and Trade within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Devleopment (2 October);

(e) Trade and Logistics and the Sustainable Development Goals (30 October);

(f) Entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals (8 December).

602. A total of 174 delegates from 147 permanent missions participated in these short courses. Of the total number, 49 participants were women, representing 28 per cent of overall participants.

603. The short courses present a platform where UNCTAD experts are given the opportunity to present their recent research to delegates, while the comments and questions from delegates provide relevant input and potential research topics to the work of UNCTAD. This informed dialogue between UNCTAD researchers and Geneva-based representatives of member States bridges the knowledge gap and ensures information sharing. These sessions are on average well attended and provide a forum for delegates and UNCTAD research experts to debate and exchange views.

604. Results and impacts. Following completion of the training, most participants from the courses in Mauritius, Colombia and Singapore indicated that the course provided an improved knowledge on international economic issues and development aspects at the national, regional and international levels. They noted a deepened understanding of the importance of the role of international trade in improving economic development, including the links between international economic, social and financial issues. The approach to link theory, policy and practice in economic policy development was highly rated. Its approach to trade, development and investment at the regional and international levels was also useful for the participants.

605. The evaluations of the regional courses continued to illustrate that participants and their sending departments appreciated the debates on development-related topics and the integrated approach of the programme to ensuring that economic gains benefit development. This is inherent in the design of the curriculum, which treats development from the multiple perspectives of trade, finance, investment and technology. It highlights that the debates and design and implementation of appropriate economic policies can contribute to growth and the development process in general.

606. One participant in the thirty-sixth regional course held in Mauritius stated: "The UNCTAD 36th P166 Flagship Course in Mauritius 2017 was weli structured, rich in content and examples, coupled with statistical data and clear explanations. It was indeed insightful and covers the most recent economic issues and challenges facing African countries and the rest of the world in comparison. I can now personally confirm to have broadened my understanding of the key issues of international economic agenda discussed during the course. I am also confident that the experience gained, and lessons learned have enhanced my ability to replicate the training at the national level, provide informed advisory services to high-level policymakers, and apply the knowledge in research and formulation of targeted development policies".

607. Most participants praised the lessons learned from the experiences of other countries and how economic gains can be achieved. Most participants said that the curricula had surpassed expectations, by providing overall knowledge on international economic issues and development. They also stated that they had learned about global economic issues, why economic changes take place and how economies are impacted. More importantly, how to tackle economic related issues through policymaking was well understood. The case studies presented in Mauritius, Colombia and Singapore were particularly helpful to most participants from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, who found that the experiences and lessons learned could be adjusted and utilized to improve

their countries' economic trajectory, trade policy, institutional framework design and sustainable development.

608. Following courses held previously, and in an assessment of the courses, several participants reported that they were already using the knowledge and tools acquired in their daily work such as improvement of economic policy, trade negotiations, policy formulation, strategic planning, attracting FDI, employment creation and providing advisory services. Many also reported a better understanding of the essential role that trade agreements and the role they play in trade negotiations. Overall, participants complimented the curricula's ability to promote debate and highlighted the policy development role-playing exercises as an example of how knowledge could be shared among policymakers, both at the national and regional levels.

609. Additionally, many noted that the knowledge gained helped them achieve a better understanding of contemporary economic issues and how to cope with the challenges of the new multilateral trading system. Several participants indicated their ability to employ analytical tools in the decision-making process in pursuit of relevant development policies to address economic challenges. Many also mentioned the linkages among international trade, finance, investment, technology and innovation as key pillars of the development strategy.

4. Training programme in Angola

4.1. European Union–UNCTAD joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II

610. Development context. With a population of 25.0 million, GDP in Angola was $102.6 billion in 2015, which is relatively high compared with other sub-Saharan African countries, excluding South Africa, and, indeed, remarkable for a least developed country. Buoyed by high petroleum prices, Angola experienced accelerated growth in its GDP in the past 15 years with the highest growth rates being 20.5 per cent in 2005 and 23.2 per cent in 2007. The 2008–2009 global economic crisis reversed the high growth rate, which dropped to 2.4 per cent in 2009 and rose to 7.5 per cent in 2013. In 2014, it fell below 5 per cent, and further decelerated to 3 per cent in 2015. Angola's slowing growth has made it difficult for the country to meet the Millennium Development Goals and it will certainly struggle to meet the Sustainable Development Goals in the absence of economic diversification. The conflict in Angola, which lasted almost 27 years, continues to affect the main pillars of the country's economic development, particularly physical infrastructure for trade, including ports, rails, roads, electricity and information and communications technology facilities. All this makes it difficult for traders, especially those beyond the vicinity of the capital of Luanda, to import and export goods and provide services on a nationwide basis and to neighbouring countries.

611. Objectives and features. The European Union–UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola will provide relevant trainings to government officials and private sector actors on the issues defined as a priority by the national counterparts, including various public and private stakeholders. As part of the broader Trade Support Project in Angola, Train for Trade II will focus on the training of national experts and trainers of various public and private stakeholders in the following areas:

(a) Trade policy and negotiations;

(b) Trade finance and logistics

(c) SME development;

(d) Trade facilitation;

(e) Scoping of non-oil trade opportunities.

612. The project is structured to meet the following results until the end of the implementation period:

(a) Between 500 and 700 Angolan officials provided with training on international trade over the lifetime of the project, having their technical skills enhanced;

(b) Development of a course curriculum for academic or vocational training;

(c) Between 50 and 100 officials trained to be providers of trade courses and embed knowledge in institutions;

(d) Five promising economic sectors analysed and value chains mapped, in the form of studies and/or manuals;

(e) 100–150 SME business people trained in entrepreneurial and growth techniques;

(f) 30 Angolans to participate in study tours on trade matters and regional integration.

613. Outputs. The technical project components in the six agreed areas have been fully developed, translated, shared with the Government of Angola and are ready for implementation. The components include the following:

(a) Angola Green Export Review;

(b) Commercial diplomacy: capacity-building in trade policymaking, negotiations and analysis in Angola;

(c) Support for the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Angola;

(d) Promotion of sustainable transport and trade logistics systems in Angola;

(e) Investment Policy Review of Angola,

(f) Empretec Programme for Angola.

614. An UNCTAD steering committee was established at a technical level to oversee the coordinated implementation of the project and related components. The steering committee is guided by a senior management task force, consisting of directors of the relevant divisions.

615. Results. The preparatory actions taken are crucial as the divisions move forward to the actual implementation phase of the project (2021). All six project components are strictly focused on capacity-building and foresee, during the implementation period (2017–2021), training sessions for approximately 700 stakeholders from the Government, the private sector and academia, as well as study tours and between 50 and 100 officials trained to be providers of trade courses and embed knowledge in institutions. The project components also presented an approved logical framework which identifies the Sustainable Development Goals related to each activity and result performed.